



School's out, summer's in
Where to go and what to do in the holidays p15



The new Bardot
the times



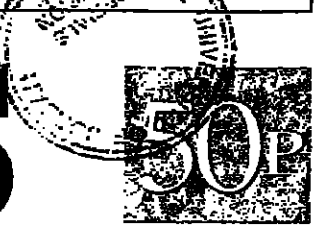
Why young men play a round



Heard the one about the 12-year-old comedian?
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THE TIMES



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SATURDAY JULY 25 1998

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Corrupt police 'put innocent men in prison'

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

TEN men are serving prison sentences of up to 20 years because crooked detectives planted evidence against them, according to allegations uncovered by the Metropolitan Police's anti-corruption drive.

The cases have been identified by senior officers and lawyers as potential miscarriages that will have to be referred to the Court of Appeal. Police commanders are confident that some of the victims will be cleared and released.

The disclosure will add to the pressure on Sir Paul Condon, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, and John Stevens, his deputy and the head of the anti-corruption drive, to bring "bad officers" to justice. Scotland Yard has already been battered by the revelations of incompetence arising from the inquiry into the police handling of the investigation into the killing of Stephen Lawrence, the black teenager.

Checks on more than 200 cases stretching back two decades, many of them armed robberies, have revealed allegations that detectives framed victims because they had weak cases or to enhance their careers. There are also claims that in some cases the investigators were paid by those who carried out the crimes to find someone else to take the blame.

In other cases victims were framed with the help of informers who then shared the rewards paid on conviction with their police handlers. The allegations centre on the planting of crucial evidence such as weapons.

None of the prisoners who



Stevens heading drive against corruption

were wrongly convicted have yet been told but their release would bring extensive claims for damages and reparation running to hundreds of thousands of pounds. Some of the cases involve prisoners who have spent years protesting their innocence. The cost of any claims will have to be met by the Home Office.

The allegations could also provoke a flood of claims by other criminals for appeals against their convictions because the reputations of officers have been brought into doubt.

Scotland Yard's anti-corruption team — nicknamed the Untouchables — has been examining allegations against scores of suspect officers, from detective constable to chief inspector. Sir Paul has ordered a scrutiny of their careers and the cases they handled.

A special "audit" unit under the command of a superintendent is vetting the cases in collaboration with the Crown

Prosecution Service and the Police Complaints Authority. Many cases involve the north-eastern unit of the Flying Squad based at Rigg Approach in Walthamstow, East London. Fourteen current officers from the unit have been suspended.

Officers who are convicted of perverting the course of justice could face long prison sentences. One corruption trial involving sabotaging evidence has already led to a nine-year sentence for a former detective.

During the past 20 years, Scotland Yard has been largely unscathed by allegations that victims have been framed for serious crimes. In the late 1970s and early 1980s a force of provincial officers formed Operation Countryman to look at the Flying Squad but no officers from Scotland Yard were ever convicted.

In the latest investigations Sir Paul has gone far wider than Countryman and alleged that officers have been involved in robbery, drug dealing and even helped to organise contract killings. They have allegedly sold information to the underworld and sabotaged the work of colleagues in return for bribes.

At the same time they have worked as highly skilled detectives. They have been careful never to show the profits from their earnings and have pursued successful careers.

Since Scotland Yard launched its operations last year eight current and former officers have been arrested. More than 20 more have been suspended.

Condon's fight, page 14
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Emma Noble goes in to bowl for her in-laws



John Major's future daughter-in-law, Emma Noble, opened the bowling at a cricket match near her fiancé's country home. Her first ball hit a photographer but James Major scored 15 and Emma clearly won over Norma Major. Page 5

Camilla assistant resigns over leak to press

By ALAN HAMILTON

THE personal assistant to Camilla Parker Bowles resigned yesterday after an inquiry into how news of a private meeting between the Prince of Wales's close friend and Prince William reached a national newspaper.

Amanda McManus, 42, who has worked for Mrs Parker Bowles since last September, confessed that she had been the first link in a chain which led to the story appearing in *The Sun* earlier this month, and that as a result she could no longer remain with honour in her position.

The Times understands that Mrs McManus mentioned the meeting privately to her husband James, 55, who is managing director of *The Times* Supplements. Mr McManus told an old colleague in confidence, who passed the story to a friend, *The Sun's* chief reporter John Kay.

Disclosure of the story caused dismay to the Prince of Wales, who has been particularly anxious to guard his sons' privacy in the aftermath of their mother's death. But after consulting the Press Complaints Commission, St James's Palace decided at the time to confirm the story as a matter of legitimate public interest.

In a statement Mrs McManus said: "It is a matter of great regret to me that chance remarks of mine led to the disclosure in the press of the private meeting between Mrs Parker Bowles and Prince William. I am so very sorry for the distress this has caused. Above all, my shame is that I failed those who demand loyalty and trust, particularly my remarkable employer, Mrs Parker Bowles."

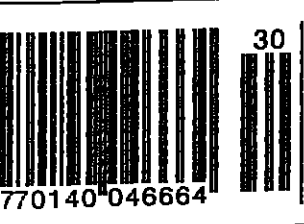
A statement issued on behalf of Mrs Parker Bowles last night said she deeply regretted that it had been necessary to accept Mrs McManus's resignation.

Mr McManus said yesterday: "I mentioned to a trusted third party unconnected with journalism or News International certain information which was then, to my great regret, passed on to *The Sun*."



McManus's story began with chance remark

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Shares tumble, but economy will not crash says Brown

By ALASDAIR MURRAY, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

GORDON BROWN was forced yesterday into defending his handling of the economy after new figures showing a marked slowdown in economic growth increased fears that the economy could be heading towards recession.

Weak Gross Domestic Product figures, coupled with a spate of corporate profit warnings, sent the stock market tumbling for a fourth consecutive day.

The Chancellor said an economic slowdown was necessary to rein in inflation but insisted there would be no "crash-landing" and that the Bank of England had acted correctly in raising rates to the

current level of 7.5 per cent. "I am going to continue to support the Bank of England in the difficult decisions it has made," he said. "This is a long-term strategy that I think will bring results for every one of the British people in work and looking for work."

However, Francis Maude, Shadow Chancellor, claimed that the GDP data was "further proof that the Government's economic policy mistakes are making the downturn worse than it need have been."

The Chancellor also came under renewed attack from exporters following the announcement by Rover, the car

company, that it was cutting 3,000 new and planned jobs due to the strong pound.

Peter Barker, chairman of the British Exporters Association, claimed the Government must take its share of the blame for the job losses and that any loss of manufacturing capacity from the downturn would be "irreversible". "Economic control as exercised by the Treasury is causing considerable long-term damage to our markets," he said.

Mr Brown hit back claiming a scandal over drugs spread, prompting calls for the race to be scrapped. Yesterday's leg was delayed by a riders' protest. Pages 10, 36

Leading article, page 19
Markets, page 27
Weekend Money, page 48

Capitol shooting

A man was arrested and two policemen were injured after a shooting incident at the US Capitol in Washington. Tourists were ushered out and corridors and lifts were shut but the proceedings of the House were not interrupted.

Free museums

The national museums and galleries of England will be free for every citizen within three years. The Culture Secretary Chris Smith said that £100 million would be set aside. Page 2

Tour delayed

The future of the Tour de France was in doubt as a scandal over drugs spread, prompting calls for the race to be scrapped. Yesterday's leg was delayed by a riders' protest. Pages 10, 36

Churches fear loss of 'medieval envelopes'

By FRASER NELSON

TREASURERS of Britain's 35,000 churches fear they could lose more than £30 million a year in collection money through plans to abolish a medieval system for tax-free charity donations.

Leaders of all denominations say they could lose more than half their tax relief if the Treasury replaces deeds of covenant with an American-style self-assessment system.

The Churches are dependent on small, weekly donations by churchgoers and can claim 30p of tax back on every £1 placed in a covenant envelope. This brings in around £60 million a year.

But these demands are expensive to process, and the


Treasury is planning to overhaul the system. Under self-assessment, parishioners will be asked to find an extra 30p in the pound and reclaim the tax themselves.

The Churches fear many will not understand the system, or find it too tedious, leading to a drop-off rate of 50 per cent.

Robin Stevens, stewardship adviser for the Church of England's finance board, said: "We would have to persuade people to donate an extra £35 million a year just to stand still."

The Treasury claims its reforms, due next year, will make charity taxation easier to administer.

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Comedian, 12, has done her homework

Wise-cracking schoolgirl from Glasgow has stand-up fans rolling in the aisles, reports Gillian Harris

WHEN Ashley Storrie skips onto the stage at one of Glasgow's best-known comedy clubs, even the hecklers fall silent. A tiny figure in a flowery skirt, 12-year-old Ashley is Britain's youngest stand-up comedian and a rising star on the circuit.

Having appeared in clubs since February — with her name rising steadily up the bill — she is already a seasoned performer. She also knows how to handle Glasgow's rowdy crowds, beginning her 15-minute routine with a warning: "Please don't heckle me — a Lego brick thrown by a small child can take your eye out."

Her comedy routine, which she hones in her bedroom surrounded by Barbie dolls and homework, pokes fun at school trips, her parents and growing up. She also touches on adult topics, warning children to beware the straying hands of elderly priests.

Her choice of material has angered some critics. Stephen Maysmith, writing in *The List* magazine, said: "Either she has been drilled to say things she doesn't understand, which is worrying, or she knows exactly what she's talking about, which is downright disturbing."

But Ashley shrugs off the criticism. "Children my age know things go on and I try to get something funny out of it," she said.

Ashley writes her own material, seeking to emulate her comic heroes, Dawn French, Jennifer Saunders and Billy Connolly. "Stand-up is difficult," she said. "You have to get people to listen and make them laugh. The worst bit is being on stage. People are smoking and the lights are so bright you can't see the audience."

Her comedy career began at school, where she would tell her friends witty anecdotes. This evolved into a

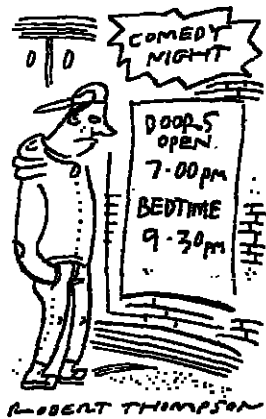


Illustration by Robert Thompson

routine which she first showed her parents, Ian and Janey, when she was 11.

"I thought her material was OK," Mr Storrie said. "I think she is a very good performer."

Ashley's agent, fellow comedian Billy Bonkers, said: "She is very funny and talented. Her biggest fans are the other comics. They fall about laughing."

But Ashley's success has caused problems at Laurel Park School in Glasgow, where she is a first-year pupil. "I am not a very popular person in my class," she said.

"I find most people my age immature and a bit stuck-up. Most of my friends tend to be older, about 14. I get teased because the school put up pictures of me."

Ashley is an only child who lives with her parents in the West End of Glasgow. They support her ambitions, although her father, who is unemployed and her unofficial manager, is bemused by her single-mindedness.

"I would never push her. My role is to make sure people are being fair with her. But she works from the moment she wakes up in the morning, sorting things out, calling her agent, before I take her to school. It would be a joy for me if she woke up and said, 'Right, I just want to go to school today,'" he said.

Ashley has other ideas. She would like to attend stage school in London and become an actress.

Other comic prodigies include Ernie Wise, who began performing in working men's clubs when he was 7, and Bruce Forsyth, who first appeared on stage at 14. Bob Monkhouse sold jokes to variety comedians when he was aged 15.

ASHLEY'S GAGS

"When I grow up I am going to be a woman. That means I get to shout at my dad all day, slam doors and use bits of sticky plastic to rip the hairs off my legs."

"My parents say that music today is all drug-induced. But what about this: MacArthur Park is melting, someone left the cake out in the rain? Please don't tell me that the person who wrote that wasn't on drugs."

"I have been studying feng shui, which is all about bringing in positive vibes and getting rid of negative vibes. So I have moved my Mum and Dad out of the door and they are not getting back in."

"I went on a school trip with some girls to a new theme park called Bibleworld. But it was not fair. The boys got to go to Masonicworld. That sounds like much more fun."

"I have a Barbie doll. And a shop near where I stay sells a life-sized version of Ken. But I don't know what a girl would want with all that plastic."



Rising star: Ashley Storrie's comedy routine pokes fun at school and parents and warns of the wandering hands of elderly priests

Charity officer escapes jail over call-girl fraud

By Stephen Farrell

A CHARITY accountant who became infatuated with a call-girl stole more than £100,000 while trying to buy her out of prostitution, a court was told yesterday.

William Hall, 50, financial controller of the Society of Licensed Victuallers, paid Gillian Swanson, 28, a £71,000 "salary" over 13 months and rented a flat where he could have sole access to her. Reading Crown Court was told.

But Hall, from Wokingham, Berkshire, is likely to avoid a jail sentence after a judge heard he has paid most of the money back. Christopher Cousins, for the prosecution, told Judge Anthony Kenny that the married accountant, whose wife Janet was with him in court, admitted 15 charges of theft from the 160-year-old society between 1990 and 1997.

He met Ms Swanson through an escort agency in the mid-1990s. Mr Cousins said: "They became intimate, he became totally infatuated with her. He didn't want her to go on working for an escort agency so he undertook to pay her a 'salary' of £750 to £800 a week so he could have exclusive access to her at a flat which he rented for her."

The thefts were discovered when a bank queried one

cheque, suspecting it was forged. He immediately admitted the offences.

Richard Case, for Hall, said his client had foolishly believed Ms Swanson was too good to work as a prostitute and he had tried to persuade her to give it up.

Most of the £127,000 lost by the charity was taken to fund his relationship with Ms Swanson but some was stolen in 1990 and 1991 to pay large telephone bills run up using his computer.

After hearing that Hall has already paid back £113,000 by selling a classic car collection and other assets, Judge Kenny deferred sentence for three months to allow him to pay back the total.

Indicating that Hall faced a likely two-year suspended prison sentence, a £2,000 fine and the prosecution costs, the judge described it as a "very grave breach of trust" but told Hall: "You have lost a good career, you have lost your professional standing. You have disgraced yourself with members of your family and your friends."

"And if it's right that your employers will have suffered no financial loss at all then really and truly the only person who will have suffered is yourself and your family."

Locals stonewall Arab plan for Windsor oasis

By Helen Johnstone

THE great wall of Winkfield is uniting a village against an Arab sheikh.

Zayed bin Sultan al-Nahyan, ruler of Abu Dhabi, plans to build an 8ft wall around the five-mile perimeter of his historic estate, Ascot Place, which borders Windsor Great Park in Berkshire, to increase privacy.

The planning application for the wall, which local people say would blight the landscape, has been made by an agent on behalf of the owner, who was identified in 1991, when he bought Ascot Place for a reported £19 million, as Sheikh Zayed. He was reported to have acquired it for members of his family and entourage.

English Heritage is currently studying the possible effects of the wall on the estate's 400 acres of parkland, which were once part of the royal forest around Windsor Castle. A spokeswoman said the 18th century mansion house was a Grade II listed building and its vast grounds were among 1,200 protected estates in England. She said the register was designed to encourage owners to maintain and enhance historic parkland vulnerable to damage and destruction in a sensitive way. English Heritage would consider the effects

before recommending approval or refusal.

The sheikh's plans have stirred up villagers and Winkfield Parish Council is now presiding over a growing tide of opposition. A spokesman said: "Everyone is against this. I have not heard anyone say a word in favour. It will be like Colditz."

The council fears a perimeter wall would curtail views and accelerate the process of creeping urbanisation. In a statement, the council said as Ascot Place was not visible from any point around the perimeter, the whole proposal created an unnecessary and unwelcome enclave within a community with which it had no links. It is also concerned at the possible damage to mature trees and hedgerows around most boundaries.

Bracknell Forest Borough Council, which received the application at the end of June, is expected to announce a decision by the end of next month. Mark Palin, a spokesman for the council, said more than 40 letters of objection had already been received and more were arriving daily. He added: "The idea has got very little support within the council so far. It is just too controversial, the locals would not wear it."

Spice Girls put brakes on driver

By Adrian Lee

THE Spice Girls yesterday tried unsuccessfully to jail their former chauffeur for selling the group's secrets.

They claimed that Paul Attridge, 31, broke a confidentiality agreement not to reveal their business, sex or shopping habits.

At the High Court, lawyers for the five performers alleged that Mr Attridge, of Enfield, north London, had defied an earlier order to disclose exactly what he knew about the girls and whom he has told.

In May, he embarrassed the group by disclosing details of their split with Ginger Spice to a Sunday newspaper. He is now planning a book.

A motion to have Mr Attridge jailed for contempt was adjourned by Mr Justice Wright until October, when the driver will challenge the order that silences him.



Mr Attridge, left, and Spice Girls Emma and Mel C

Under its terms, he was required to provide lawyers with any documents relating to the group.

David Sherborne, for Victoria Adams (Posh), Melanie Chisholm (Sporty), Melanie Brown (Scary), Emma Bunton (Baby) and Geri Halliwell (Ginger), said Mr Attridge had repeatedly frustrated

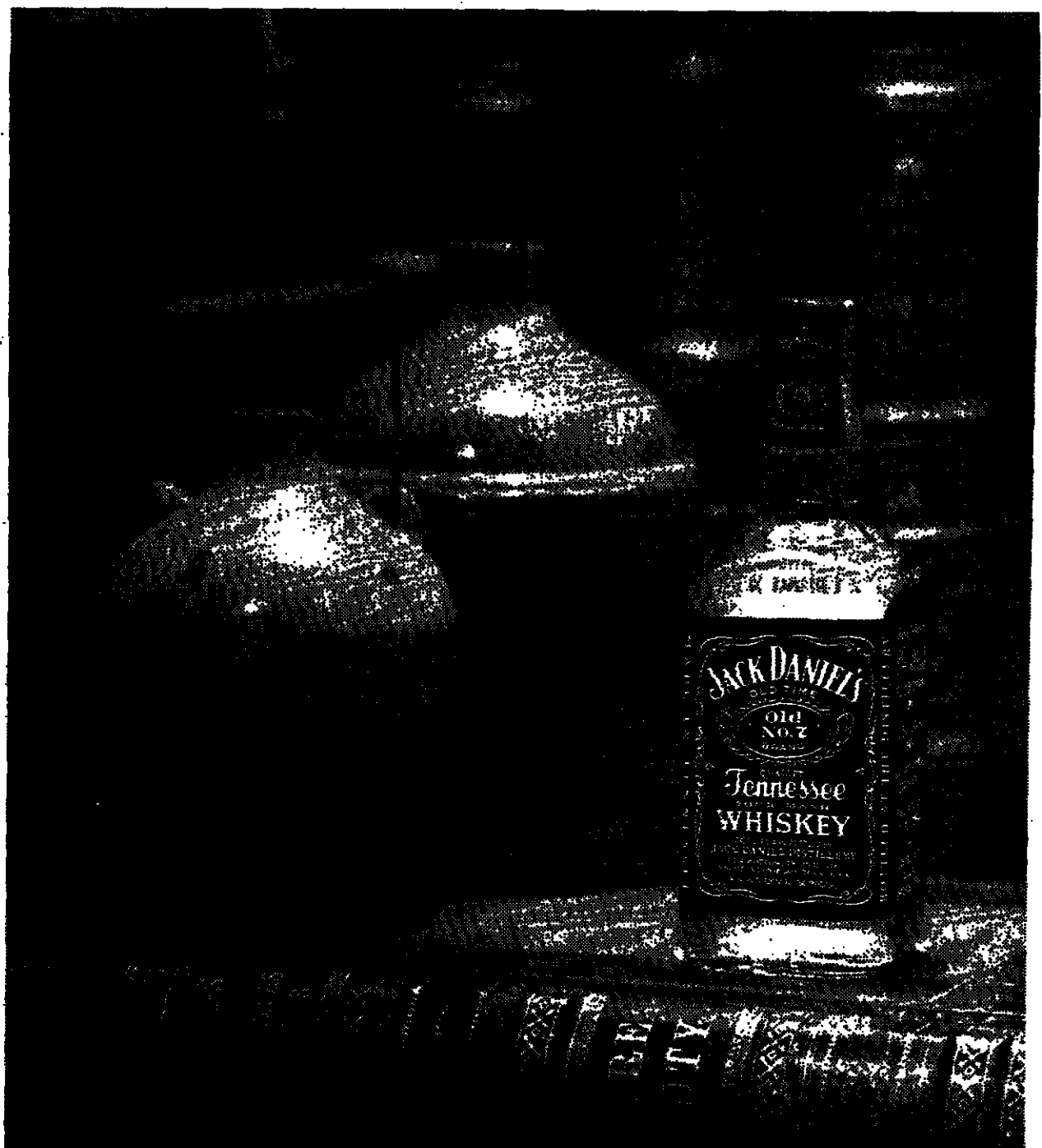
efforts to obtain the information. The group did not want their former employee jailed but had been forced to act to preserve their privacy, Mr Sherborne said.

Jeremy Callman, for Mr Attridge, said his client had not been evasive, and realised that until the earlier order was overturned or changed he

could not make fresh revelations. In the meantime, the chauffeur was prepared to hand any documents relating to the Spice Girls to his own solicitor for safe-keeping.

Mr Attridge did not give evidence. Mr Justice Wright said that although the former chauffeur might technically be in contempt, it would be sensible to deal with the alleged breach after the confidentiality dispute had been resolved.

It involves the "sexual and/or emotional lives" of the Spice Girls, "or any of them and third parties and information relating to their business and/or legal affairs, or financial or spending habits". The main concern of the group was to protect their privacy and that would be achieved until the next hearing, said the judge. He refused the Spice Girls leave to appeal.



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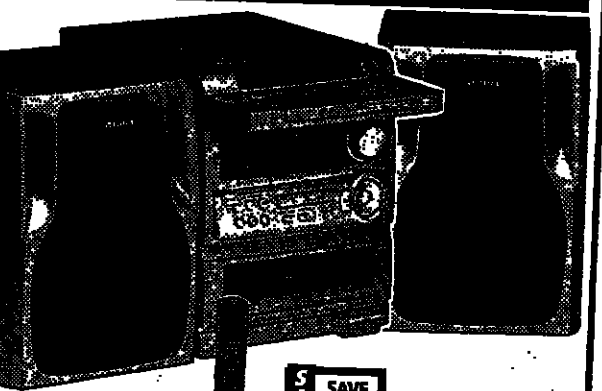
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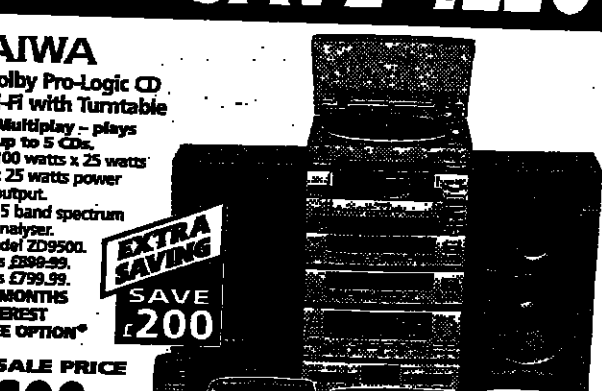
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Major's fiancée shows her flair in cricket test

JOHN MAJOR'S first public appearance with his future daughter-in-law was, perhaps unsurprisingly, at a cricket match. Emma Noble showed attacking flair, telling a photographer. Mr Major played everything with a straight bat.

The event was the annual charity match between a Norma Major XI and the fund-raising Bumbury's team held yesterday at Alconbury, a village a couple of miles across the fields from the Majors' home in Great Snakeley, Cambridgeshire.

Miss Noble, 26, a game-show host and model with an uncanny knack of appearing in the tabloids sparsely attired, and James Major, 23, have been stepping out for a few months now. Miss Noble had been asked to bowl the first ball and the press had been invited to come along and witness this exciting spectacle. It, as was suggested, this was an initiation test before she could be properly welcomed into the fold by the former Prime Minister's family. She would have failed on technique but passed with flying colours for effectiveness.

Miss Noble did not arrive

Emma Noble's first ball turns out to be a real corker, writes Damian Whitworth

looking ready to play cricket. There was some speculation as to whether she was wearing anything else under her short, beige jacket. But on closer examination there appeared to be something that was almost a skirt. Mrs Major, in contrast, was wearing a mustard suit with a hemline midway down the calf.

Mr Major junior, who in shades and untucked shirt has shed his Marks & Spencer management image, changed into his cricket whites, posed for pictures with the two women in his life and led his fiancée, teetering on high heels, out to the middle.

The teams included the former England captain Brian

Close, the former heavyweight boxer Gary Mason and the jockey Richard Dunwoody as well as a number who were distinctly less recognisable than Miss Noble. "A lot of serious celebrities give up their time for this event," said the Tory former minister Sir Brian Mawhinney, who was one of the umpires. Sir Brian, a local MP, was called upon to give one of those celebrities, Miss Noble, some tips as she said she had never played in or been to a cricket match before.

The England women's international Charlotte Edwards, 18, was the opening batsman, but she was untroubled by the Noble delivery. Miss Noble swung her arm and the ball parted the hair of one photographer then struck the man from *The Mirror* who was foolishly trying to take a picture at silly mid-off. He was sent crumpling to the ground.

Sir Brian declared this a no ball and the second attempt was nearer the batsman. Amid quips about the maiden bowling, the photographer over, Miss Noble retired.

Mr Major arrived in time to see his son knock 15 runs in partnership with Close. But while he was clearly enjoying the cricket, he took his bat home when asked to play for photographs. He declined to answer any questions or pose for a family picture and became visibly angry after a television crew said they wanted to talk to him about the cricket game then slipped in a question about Miss Noble.

Mrs Major was similarly taciturn. "I'm not saying anything," she said. "I don't have to do it any more."

Elizabeth Major, their daughter, was more chatty. She said Miss Noble was "lovely".

James Major appeared to be having a whale of a time busily signing autographs with his fiancée. "We are making all the plans you would expect but we're keeping it all very secret," he said.

Miss Noble said: "The Majors are just like a normal family. Just like mine. They are lovely."



Lionel Jospin decorating Andrew Elliot, 8, with a Tricolour during his visit to Trimdon Colliery Community Centre yesterday

A tale of two constituency visits

Blair repays Jospin's champagne reception with two halves in the local. Paul Wilkinson reports

THE streets of Trimdon Colliery have not seen anything like it. Two Prime Ministers walking the pavements and pressing the flesh with anyone prepared to stop.

The former mining village in Co Durham will now be able to hold its head up high with the best of those international venues where Heads of State meet to thrash out weighty world matters after a visit by Lionel Jospin, the French premier, to the constituency of his British opposite number.

For a few hours the rows of miners' terraced homes rang with the excited babble of the Gallic political press corps, the trill of a score of mobile phones and the hushed mumbles of security men talking into their shirt-cuffs.

But there was merely polite applause when M Jospin and "my close friend Tony" left the Rainbow Fun Club for children at Trimdon Colliery

community centre. And there was mild curiosity from a small crowd outside their lunch venue in the Dun Cow pub in neighbouring Sedgfield. At Trimdon Labour Club, where the two leaders were to meet people involved in the village's millennium celebrations, the man on the one-armed bandit by the door never faltered from his mechanical slotting in of 10p coins as the Prime Ministers arrived.

Tony Blair's celebrity on the world stage has yet to touch his home constituency. The last, and first, big media jamboree was more than a year ago when everyone descended on his detached Ed-

I'M AN OLD FASHIONED LEFT WINGER MYSELF



M Jospin was impressed. Asked at the end of his visit for his observations compared to his own constituency of Cingegabelle in the Arriege district of south-western France, he said: "It was much more simple, more direct, more warm, mainly thanks to Tony."

The brief tour had been billed as Mr Blair returning the hospitality extended by

at the World Cup finals at a time when news in Paris is traditionally flat.

In France the Blairs had enjoyed a champagne party in the market square and been presented with an eight-month-old foal, Justin de Vives, allegedly descended by Napoleon on carry his cannon over the Pyrenees.

Yesterday the parish council presented M Jospin with an etching of St Mary Magdalene church in Trimdon where he had inspected the annual flower show. Then it was off to the pub for lunch. M Jospin was happy to join Mr Blair in a couple of halves of real ale to wash down his sea-food salad and main course of sea bass.

But then it was all over. As the French motorcade roared off, Mr Blair said that the visit had been "fabulous". The drinkers in the Dun Cow ordered their next round.



Team talk: John and James Major with Emma Noble

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York Minster keeps faith with Roman ruler Constantine

By MICHAEL HORNSBY

A BRONZE statue of Constantine the Great, the first Roman ruler to convert to Christianity, will be unveiled today outside York Minster close to the spot where he was proclaimed Emperor in 306.

The ceremony will commemorate a turning point in world history, which led to the transformation of a persecuted minority sect, whose founder had been executed as a common criminal, into a global religion.

The 1.6 metre high statue, commissioned at a cost of £78,000 by the York Civic Trust, is the work of Philip Jackson, who yesterday watched his creation being lowered into place on top of a 1.3 metre high stone plinth outside the Minster's south door.

The Right Rev Lord Coggan, a former Archbishop of York and Canterbury, will unveil the statue at 5.15pm.

"Constantine was a man of his time and certainly not without blemish," John Shannon, the chair-



Constantine ended the persecution of Christians

man of the trust, said yesterday. "He executed his son by his first marriage, and his second wife died in suspicious circumstances, supposedly suffocating while taking a steam bath."

"But because of his key role in the spread of Christianity, and the fact that York is the only English city in which a Roman emperor has been proclaimed, we felt that it was

absolutely right to have this statue erected.

"York, known to the Romans as Eboracum, had been a Roman city since AD 71 because of its ideal defensive position, and a Roman fortress stood on the site now occupied by the Minster. We believe he was proclaimed Emperor only a few yards from where the statue stands."

Constantine was probably born in the late 280s in Naissus (modern Nis, in Serbia). His father, Constantius, was a general in the army who had risen to the rank of deputy emperor.

Passed over for the succession in 305, Constantine joined his father on a military campaign in northern Britain and was proclaimed Emperor by the army when his father died in York.

After a series of struggles with rivals, he gained control of the western Empire in 312, becoming sole ruler in both west and east in 324.

He rebuilt and enlarged Byzantium, renaming it Constantinople,



The statue of Constantine is lowered onto its plinth outside York Minster, where he was proclaimed Roman Emperor

on the Bosphorus, making it his permanent capital.

Constantine is thought to have been impressed as a young man by the courage of Christians savagely persecuted by Diocletian. It is possible that some members of his family were already converts. His mother, Helena, was said to have had a splinter of the true Cross. In

313 Constantine suspended the persecution of Christians and extended toleration to all recognised religions. The nature of his own faith was unclear. He continued to endorse pagan cults and was baptised only on his deathbed in 337.

He involved himself actively in ecclesiastical affairs, however,

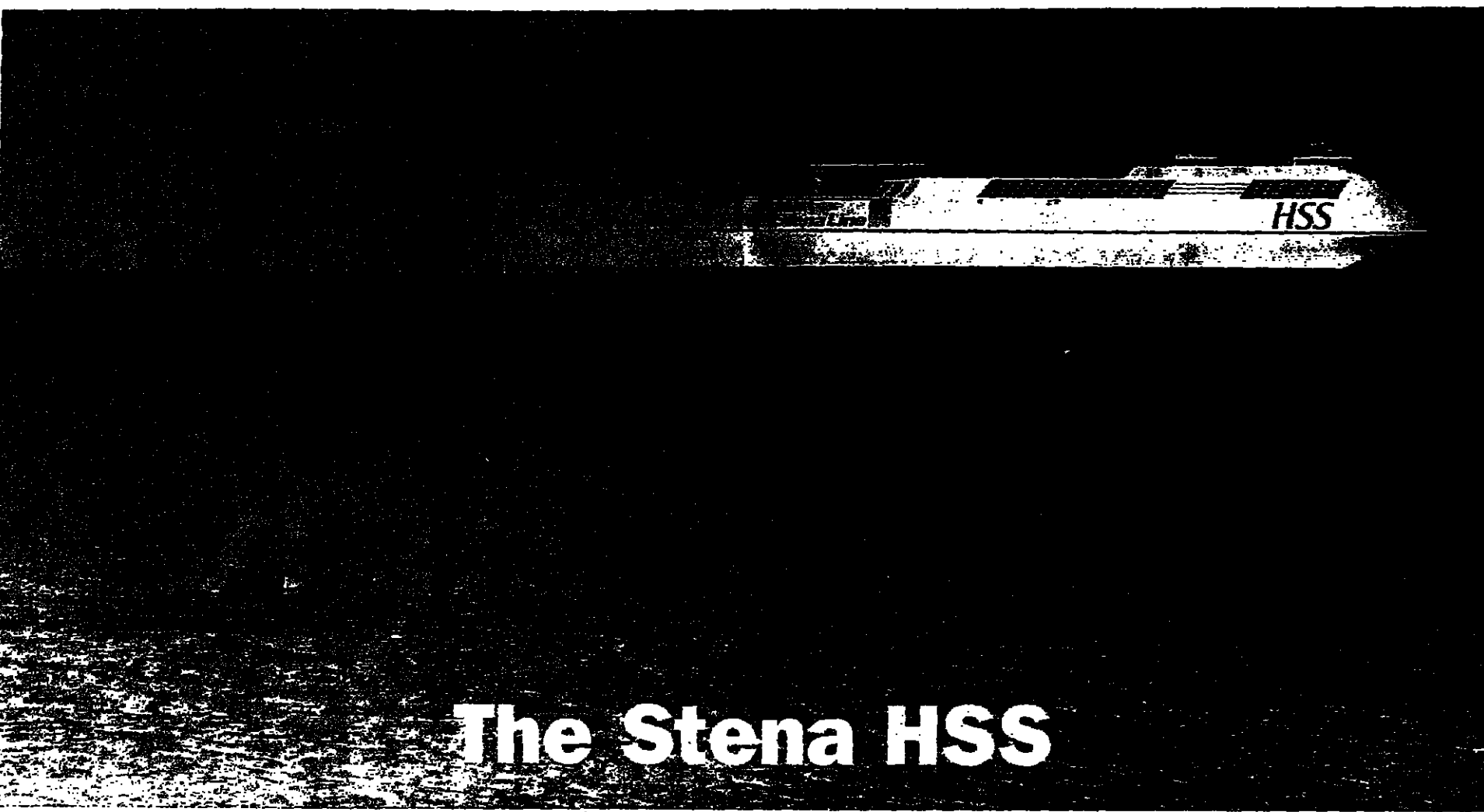
making the opening address to the council at Nicaea in 325, which laid the groundwork for the creed that still forms the basic statement of faith of the Roman Catholic, Eastern Orthodox, Anglican and most other Protestant churches.

All emperors after Constantine were at least nominally Christian — with the exception of Julian the

Apostate, who staged an abortive pagan revival — and Christianity became the officially established religion of the Empire.

Mr Jackson's other work includes statues of Baroness Thatcher, Mozart and a British Falklands War "yomper", a soldier who marched across the islands in the 1982 war.

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Church found in ruins of fort at Hadrian's Wall

By PAUL WILKINSON

ONE of the oldest churches in Britain has been uncovered in the ruins of a Roman fort.

The church, on the site of Vindolanda on Hadrian's Wall, is thought to have been built soon after the Roman legions left Britain in 410 AD. It was constructed in the courtyard of what had been the villa of the fort's commander. The site in Northumberland might have been occupied beyond the 5th century.

Robin Birley, the Vindolanda Trust director, said: "We are very excited by this. We were looking for evidence of later occupation but we never thought we would discover a church. It is a narrow building in a rectangular shape with an apse on the western end, which was the custom in churches of that era. Only four others of that age have been discovered in this country before. Two are in the South of England, one is in Wales and the other further along Hadrian's Wall."

When the fort ceased to operate, trade would have collapsed. The population dwindled to about 15 families, mainly descendants of the troops once stationed at the fort. The community lived beside the Roman Stanegate

road, which continued to be the main east-west route."

The team recently found a 3rd-century Roman pagan altar on the site — the first to be discovered there this century. Mr Birley said: "I have been walking over that spot for 40 years and this wonderful monument was underneath me all along." The altar stands over a metre high.

The dig has also uncovered more of the commander's villa, which was in use for 180 years from around 220. Mr Birley said: "It was a great villa for a man with a big retinue who would have done a lot of entertaining."



Paul Birley and the pagan altar at the site

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Shamed bosses fly back to the Magpies' nest

The directors who mocked Newcastle fans and local women rejoin the board, reports **John Goodbody**

THE two Newcastle United directors who resigned after reports that they mocked the football team's fans and described Tyneside women as "dogs" rejoined the club's board yesterday.

The return of Freddy Shepherd as chairman and Douglas Hall as vice-chairman immediately brought pleas for the Newcastle supporters to forgive the shamed pair, who yesterday admitted that they had been "very stupid".

It was the anger of the fans, who had allegedly been ridiculed by Mr Shepherd and Mr Hall for buying over-priced replica shirts, that caused the pair to resign in March and plunged the club into crisis.

Mr Shepherd said yesterday: "We apologise unreservedly for our behaviour. But we now want to look forward and we hope the fans are going to be more concerned about what is happening on the park."

"We know some aspects of that episode will be very difficult to shake off but I am here whether people like it or not. I am here to repair the damage we caused and I hope people will accept that."

He pointed out that he and Mr Hall had 63 per cent of the shareholding, making it difficult for others to make decisions without them. He welcomed the recent appointment of Denis Cassidy as chairman of Newcastle United plc, saying that he "did not get on" with his predecessor, Sir Terence Harrison.

Mr Cassidy said that he



Freddy Shepherd, left and Douglas Hall

feared that there was likely to be a backlash from some supporters but added: "We are not here to make popular decisions. I believe our wisdom, our choice will come through."

He said that with Freddie Fletcher, Les Wheatley and Russell Jones on the boards of both plc and football club, there was an opportunity for everyone to work together.

Steve Wraith, editor of the No. 9 fanzine, said: "They should be welcomed back with open arms. People tend to forget they have done a tremendous amount for the club."

But Kevin Miles, chairman of Newcastle United Independent Supporters' Association, said: "It is only four months since these two men realised that their behaviour and attitude was so deplorable that they had to resign from the board — and nothing has changed since. They haven't even had the decency to give us a heartfelt apology for insulting the fans and players and even the women of Newcastle."

"It is a sad reflection on football today that an institu-

tion like Newcastle United, which means so much to so many, can become the private property and plaything of a millionaire while the fans are seen simply as customers."

John Regan, another member of the association, said: "Their original decision to resign was correct even if it took them a long time to get round to it. Their presence at the club will put the players under even greater pressure. There is not the same optimism for the new season that we have enjoyed here in previous years."

Newcastle United is likely to conduct a trial of pay-per-view television coverage of its Cup Winners' Cup matches next season through a deal with BskyB, according to informed sources.



The stolen digger and the damaged post office

Ram raiders demolish post office

A YOUNG woman and a middle-aged couple were stranded in their upstairs flats when raiders rammied a sub-post office with a digger and demolished the stairs.

The tenants were asleep early yesterday when the machine, stolen from a quarry, ploughed into the Victorian village store at Sellindge, Kent. It is thought the target was the post office safe but the raiders fled empty-handed when burglar alarms went off. Firefighters used ladders to rescue the tenants, who were unharmed. The building was later made safe.



Girls' school record dips once they hit 16

By **VICTORIA FLETCHER**

ACADEMIC "girl power" begins to dwindle at 16 despite the best efforts of teachers to interest young women in science and mathematics, researchers said yesterday.

Until the age of 16, girls outperform boys in every subject but thereafter gender stereotypes reappear, according to research for Ofsted, the school inspection agency.

Girls may increasingly be matching boys in A-level success but they are making no dent in the traditional male domination of maths and sciences. Boys still lead by more than 30 per cent in A-level entries for physics,

maths, computer studies, technology and economics.

Madeline Arnot from Cambridge University, who led the research, pointed to the effect of the National Curriculum, which means girls and boys must study the same subjects up to 16. That had boosted girls' confidence, she said, and made them positive about their futures.

The Ofsted report, *Research on Gender and Educational Performance*, said the lack of employment opportunities for girls with science A levels pushed many of them back into traditional gender roles.

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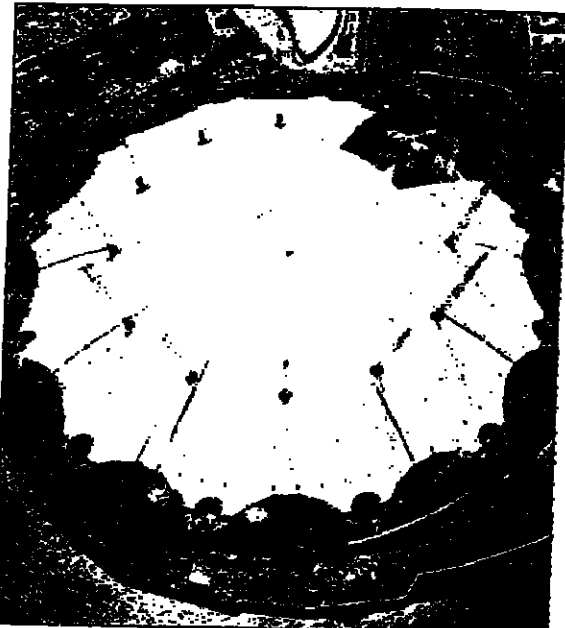
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Dome clouds have silver lining



Rain falling on the 25-acre roof will be reused

Rainfall will be recycled as visitors become guinea-pigs for innovative ways of saving water for the next century, writes Dominic Kennedy

THE Millennium Dome is being turned into a vast laboratory to test new methods of saving water as part of the exhibition's environmental legacy.

Every cloud over the Dome will have a silver lining because rain falling on the 25-acre roof, the world's largest, will be collected in giant hoppers and recycled. Thames Water is investing £2 million in trials using the expected 17 million visitors to find the best methods of making people save water.

Some economists predict that water will become so scarce that there will be "water wars" in the Middle East within a generation. Thames Water, now a global company whose customers include five million abroad from dusty Adelaide to rain-soaked Jakarta, will apply the lessons to become a world leader in water conservation.

The rest of the Greenwich peninsula will become as self-sufficient in water as possible, with new ideas being tried in

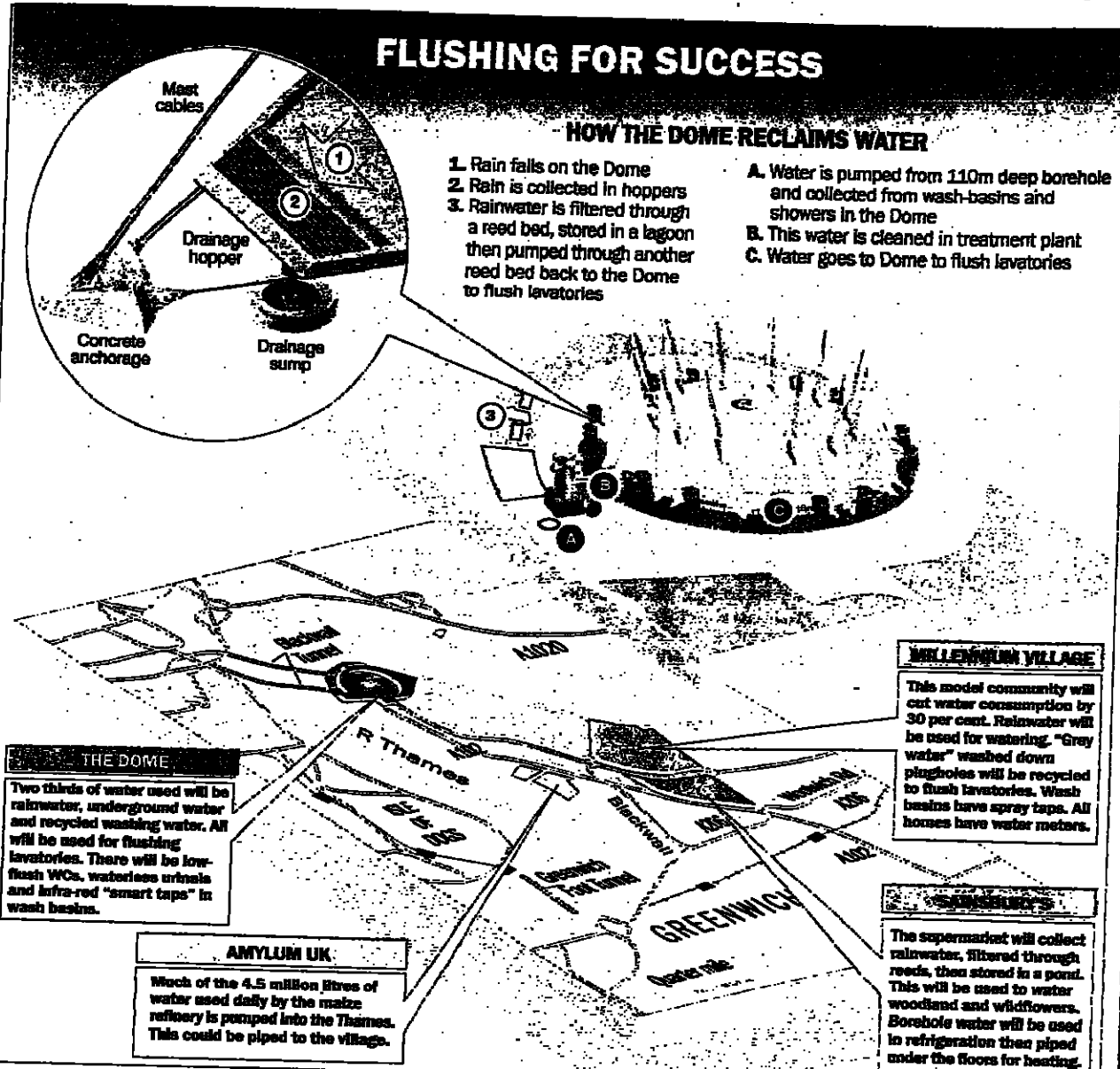
the neighbouring Sainsbury's.

The Dome's drinking water will come from the mains but the 500 million litres needed for its 83,000 lavatory flushes a day will have been "reclaimed". This will make up two thirds of consumption.

Rainfall will supply 250 million litres a day, half the flushing water needed. The rainwater will be drained into a bed of reeds, a plant which has long been Nature's filter. The rainwater will be stored in a lagoon, then pumped through another reed bed for a final filtering before use.

The second supply of water will be taken from a 110m deep borehole. This is a potentially important source because water tables under cities are rising at an alarming rate because factories have moved out and no longer take groundwater from their old boreholes.

Much of this city water, polluted with iron and sulphur, has been regarded as too dirty to use. The Dome water is also brackish because



of its proximity to the Thames.

Thames Water will experiment with new filters, using membranes containing tiny holes to clean the water. They will also try biological methods.

Thames Water's third source will be "grey water" collected from the Dome's wash-basins and showers. The water company is negotiating with manufacturers to find the most biodegradable soap possible. This washing water will be cleaned using innovative techniques.

The most sensitive part of the experiment is to monitor visitors. Some of the six lavatory blocks will be equipped

with British flush toilets built by Armitage Shanks which use 6 litres per flush instead of the usual 9 litres. Others will have "dual flush" toilets provided by the Swiss company Geberit. Users have to choose whether to use a small 3-litre flush or a big 6-litre one, although in previous experiments many people flushed several times because they thought the lavatory was not working. Waterless urinals coated with material similar to non-stick frying pans will also be on trial.

In three lavatory blocks there will be push-top taps, like those found in motorway service stations, which stop

after a few seconds. In one block there will be infra-red "smart taps" which work only when they detect a hand beneath.

The remaining two blocks will test how people react to messages, prepared by a psychologist, encouraging them to save water.

All the lavatory blocks are connected to meters and computers which will give "real-time" readings to show how much water is being saved. Thames could have metered individual lavatories but will measure blocks to prevent information about any famous people using the toilets getting into the wrong hands.

"It will be the largest public participation experiment in how people use new technology," Tony Rachwal, Thames Water's research and technology manager, said. Researchers from Cranfield University will assess the results.

Sainsbury's will use water from a borehole to refrigerate food, then pipe the warmed water under the shopfloor for heating. Rain will be stored in a pond for summer watering.

The Amylum UK maize refinery on the peninsula uses 4.5 million litres of water a day, discharging much into the Thames. One possibility is to pipe this to the Millennium Village for watering.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Man who killed car thief gets four years

A man who killed a car thief was sentenced to four years for manslaughter after his murder conviction was overturned. Jonathan Foley, 21, of Fairwater, Cardiff, punched, kicked and headbutted Justin Kemp in March last year after he found his van had been broken into for the fourth time. Kemp, 26, a father of four, died from multiple injuries. Foley was jailed for life in November, but was cleared after a retrial was ordered by the Court of Appeal. Mr Justice Maurice Kay told Foley, who admitted manslaughter: "You attacked Justin Kemp by kicking him to the head. He offered no violence to you. For several months you were wrongly convicted of murder and faced a life sentence - that must have been a hardship you did not deserve."

Toe print caught burglar

A burglar who raided an old people's home was jailed for two years by Swindon Crown Court after a print of his big toe put police on his trail. Leroy Wynter, 24, of Melksham, Wiltshire, had taken his shoes and socks off before entering the building in the town. After stealing car keys and small change, Wynter, who has several previous convictions for burglaries, drove off in a car belonging to a member of staff.

Conservation 'lacks cash'

The Government must provide English Nature with more funds if it is to fulfil its role properly, a report by the Commons environment subcommittee said. Reduced funding had "increasingly handicapped" the organisation and if that continued, "nature conservation will ultimately be the victim". The report also attacked the Environment Department for excessive control of how English Nature spent its money.

Man dies in armed raid

An elderly man died from a heart attack after four masked men brandishing a shotgun burst into a farm near St Helens, Merseyside. Paramedics tried to revive Alfred Sandford, 72, but he died later. A police patrol car heading for the farm in response to an emergency call struck a 71-year-old woman pedestrian in St Helens. The pensioner, who has not been named, was taken to hospital with serious injuries.

Helicopter pilot inquest

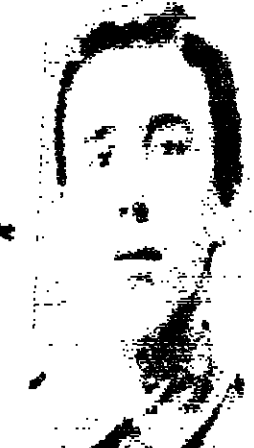
One of Britain's richest men was killed instantly when his helicopter hit the ground and burst into flames in January this year, an inquest was told. Colin Sanders, 50, who in 1986 sold his Solid State Logic company for £27 million, was piloting his twin-engine Squirrel when it hit Oxfordshire farmland. Investigators believe he became disorientated travelling through fog at night. Verdict: death by misadventure.

'Dead' woman rings up

A 24-year-old Derbyshire man received a telephone call from his mother hours after a Rochdale hospital told him she had died. Jean Davies, 62, had cancelled her heart-test appointment, but when her son rang the hospital it confused her with a woman of the same name who died on the same day. Hugh Davies plans to sue Rochdale Healthcare NHS Trust, which has apologised.

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Regret but no pardon for executed soldiers

BY MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE EDITOR

THE 306 soldiers who were shot at dawn for cowardice and desertion in the First World War are not to be pardoned, the Government announced yesterday.

Instead of the blanket exoneration demanded by relatives, John Reid, the Armed Forces Minister, expressed deep regret at the loss of life and a pledge that the Government would ask Parliament to abolish the death sentence that is still part of military law. He asked for the soldiers' names to be included in books of remembrance and on war memorials.

Dr Reid said that he had painstakingly examined the records of each of the 306 cases, found it impossible to distinguish between guilt and innocence and concluded that a pardon for all of them was not the right step. But he added: "Current knowledge of the psychological effects of war means that we now accept that some injustices may have occurred."

Dr Reid told the Commons: "The point is that now, 80 years after the events, and on the basis of the evidence, we



British troops in action at the Battle of the Somme

cannot distinguish between those who deliberately let down their country and their comrades in arms, and those who were not guilty of desertion or cowardice."

Although all the cases were examined, Dr Reid personally spent many hours poring over 100 of the files which he selected at random. Most of the contents consisted of administrative forms about the court-martial procedures. In most cases there were only two or three pages of A4 paper about the court-martial evidence. "They were just summaries, not transcripts," he told *The Times*.

What convinced him that a

"go over the top" and face the enemy and had been killed.

His review, which he announced in May last year after a campaign led by Andrew Mackinlay, Labour MP for Thurrock, discovered that the legal procedures for the courts martial were carried out correctly. The records of the 306 cases had made no reference "to nervous or other psychological or medical disorder".

Mr Mackinlay said it would be "churlish and unrealistic" to deny the significance of the statement. "This certainly closes a chapter on a very unhappy episode but we can at least take some pride that the ordinary British soldier and other victims of the Great War have been given acknowledgement which is long overdue."

Janet Booth, granddaughter of one of the executed men, Private Harry Farr, said that she was disappointed by the Government's announcement. She would follow up Dr Reid's appeal for war memorials to include the names.

The Royal British Legion welcomed the expression of regret but added: "Legion members will be disappointed that a full pardon is not forthcoming."



Tom Stones at the Co Durham memorial to which his great uncle, Joseph Stones, was added after family pleas

Relative vows to fight on against 'appalling injustice'

Great nephew is haunted by thought of how a soldier praised for his courage was killed in cold blood, Michael Evans reports



Joseph Stones: tribute paid to his bravery

THE great nephew of Lance-Sergeant Joseph Stones, who was shot in the head by an officer after a firing squad had failed to kill him in 1916, vowed yesterday to fight on for a pardon for the relative he never knew existed until about 18 months ago.

Tom Stones has been campaigning for a pardon since uncovering his family's greatest secret — the "shame" of Uncle Joseph. He said the execution of his great uncle was an appalling example of injustice.

Yesterday, after being told of the announcement that there would be no pardons, Mr Stones, 58, of Stafford, said: "I know it is not possible to give a blanket pardon for all of the 300 soldiers who were executed in the First World War, because some of them were murder-

ers. But my great uncle was a hero, the army records show that he ran back to his battalion to warn them about a German ambush, he was not running away. He had been praised by his commanding officer for his courage."

Lance-Sergeant Joseph Stones, of 19 Durham Light Infantry, left the trenches in the Somme at 2am on November 26, 1916, in the company of a lieutenant, to patrol the edge of King's Crater, and walked into an ambush. The officer, Lieutenant Mundy, was fatally wounded. Sergeant Stones, 25, left his rifle behind, and ran back to his battalion

headquarters to give the alarm but he was detained by military police at a checkpoint. He had been fighting in the Somme since January and was said to be exhausted. At his court martial he was charged with throwing away his rifle and was executed in a farmyard on January 18, 1917.

Mr Stones said: "There were glowing tributes to his bravery. He was only 5ft 2in and weighed 7st 12lb. The council where he lived in Crook, in Durham, recognised this because they inscribed his name on the local war memorial last year."

He said he could not get out of his mind the scene of his execution.

"Twelve of his comrades couldn't kill him from 20 paces, so an officer had to step forward to blow his head off with a revolver."

The 306 cases reviewed by John Reid, the Armed Forces Minister, included Lance Corporals Peter Giggins and John McDonald, who fled when Sergeant Stones shouted his warning about the Germans. They were also charged with throwing away their rifles.

Private Harry Farr of the West Yorks Regiment had been fighting in France since 1914 and had suffered from shell shock. In September 1916, he fell out and reported

himself sick but he was ordered back to the front. When he refused, they tried unsuccessfully to drag him to his unit. Despite his shell-shocked condition, he was court-martialled and executed. He is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial to the Missing, which overlooks the Somme battlefields.

Private Herbert Burden of the Northumberland Fusiliers fled from a battle at Ypres and was arrested. There were no survivors from his unit to speak for him at his court martial and he was shot, aged 17.

Private Joseph Byers of the Royal Highland Fusiliers was also only 17 when he was executed after being absent from parade. His comrades cried as they formed the firing party and some shot wide. It took three volleys to kill him.



Harry Farr: killed even though shell-shocked

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Boycott puts brake on 'drugs' Tour

France's favourite sporting event is close to collapse, Ben Macintyre writes

THE Tour de France came close to collapse yesterday as riders staged a brief and angry boycott in protest at the spreading scandal over performance-enhancing drugs.

The 12th leg of the race started almost two hours late after the riders, led by world number one Laurent Jalabert, complained they were being treated like animals.

The protest follows the expulsion last week of the Festina team, including French cyclist Richard Virenque, after a team car was found to be carrying illegal doping substances. "Since sport has become secondary and we are being treated like cattle, we have decided not to race. Today we will not take to our bikes. It is finished," Jalabert said, although the race eventually started late after race director Jean-Marie Leblanc held crisis meetings with representatives from each team.

In the latest development in the drugs scandal, three members of the Festina team admitted taking drugs to improve performance and *Le Monde* newspaper said that the cycle race should be abandoned. "The Tour de France 1998 is over," the newspaper declared in an editorial. "Who could now rejoice at the sight of the remains of the troop of riders, with its reputation compromised, entering Paris on August 2? Who would have the heart to applaud the winner of a race without faith or law?"

Cancelling the tournament would be both costly and humiliating, and the mounting gloom surrounding the most popular French sporting event stands in stark contrast to the wave of euphoria that swept the country after France's World Cup victory. Armin Meier, a Swiss rider with the Festina team, told investigators he had taken the banned hormone EPO, but he also complained that he had



Willy Voet, the Festina cycling team masseur, after he was released from custody yesterday

been treated like a criminal. "I have told the truth. I have said what I used, but I cannot speak for others because I do not know what they do. I feel better now... perhaps it is better for the sport," Meier said.

Two other Festina riders, Frenchmen Christophe Moreau and Laurent Brochard, the world road race champion, also admitted taking performance-enhancing drugs. A lawyer for Virenque said the Frenchman denied drug-taking, and several members

of the team complained of the conditions of their detention, citing malodorous cells and lack of food.

In another body blow to the competition, prosecutors have launched a second judicial inquiry after officers seized doping products on Thursday from a hotel in Pamiers, in southern France, occupied by the Dutch team TVM.

"It's the same kind of affair as with Festina," Philippe Laumosne, the deputy prosecutor in Rheims, said. The investigator added that he believed the Dutch team would also have to withdraw from the competition.

Cees Priem, the sporting director of the Dutch team, and Andrei Mihalov, the team doctor, were detained for questioning yesterday as part of a continuing investigation into the discovery of a quantity of EPO in a TVM car near Rheims last March.

Jan Ulrich, the German cyclist and current race leader, said: "The events of the past few days have made me very sad. You look forward for your whole life to wearing the yellow jersey and now you can't even enjoy it. The riders want tougher controls. I would even contribute all the money that I win here to ensure that there are more controls."

Tour report, page 36



A member of the salvage team checks the champagne discovered on the raised Swedish ketch *Jonkoping*. Experts have already pronounced it well preserved

Bubbly 1916 wreck salvaged in Baltic

BY CHARLES BREMNER

A SALVAGE team yesterday raised from the Baltic seabed the wreck of a Swedish ketch sunk in 1916 with a cargo of champagne, cognac and burgundy believed to be worth a potential fortune.

The Swedish-led C-Star consortium was awaiting word on the condition of the 5,000 bottles of 1907 Heidsieck champagne, 69 barrels of cognac and 6,000 litres of wine which went down with the 85ft *Jonkoping* when it was scuttled by a German submarine crew. The Germans had inspected its cargo and found that, as well as the wine, there was equipment for Russia's railways.

Experts who tested an early sample of the champagne from the wooden vessel earlier this month pronounced it to be exceptionally well preserved after more than eight decades at 200ft beneath the waves off southwest Finland. A crane hauled the vessel up after divers spent three weeks attaching a steel cage around it and clearing it from the sea-floor mud off Rauma. The consortium hopes to tow the wreck to Gävle, Sweden, from which the vessel sailed in November 1916.

Claes Bergvall of Sweden, the team leader, said he had promised much of the champagne to eager buyers. "We may have sold it all before we get the boat back to port."

Leading article, page 19

Lebed threat to take over nuclear forces in Siberia

FROM MICHAEL BINYON IN MOSCOW

GENERAL Aleksandr Lebed, sacked last year by President Yeltsin and now Governor of a big Siberian province, threatened yesterday to take over all Russian nuclear forces in his region unless Moscow paid months of back pay to the strategic missile troops.

In an open letter to Sergei Kiriyenko, the Russian Prime Minister, he said some soldiers at one missile unit in the Krasnoyarsk region, which is four times the size of France, had not been paid for five months. He said they were "hungry and angry", and added: "I've seriously thought about whether we shouldn't take the unit under the territory's jurisdiction."

Such a move would be tantamount to military mutiny and would send shockwaves throughout the army and the Russian Government. It would call into question Moscow's ability to retain full

control of its nuclear forces and alarm Western arms negotiators.

General Lebed, elected Governor of Krasnoyarsk earlier this year, is a leading contender to challenge Mr Yeltsin in 2000 and is keen to keep his name in the public eye. The issue of unpaid wages has infuriated soldiers, teachers, miners and millions of people in the provinces and has led to strikes, demonstrations and the blocking of the trans-Siberian railway.

He said that after 26 years in the army he well understood the hunger and anger of the officers. He added: "In exchange for the status of a nuclear territory, we will, if you like, feed the unit, becoming along with India and Pakistan a headache for the world community."

His letter, widely distributed, is a crude attempt to blackmail the Government. It

is unacceptable to President Yeltsin and the high command, but it will focus attention on the need to appease unpaid troops.

Albert Gore, the US Vice-President, meanwhile urged Moscow to halt its nuclear cooperation with Iran, which on Wednesday tested a medium-range missile capable of hitting Israel and Saudi Arabia.

Mr Gore, who held intensive talks with Mr Kiriyenko, said America would pay up to \$30 million (£18 million) to help to find alternative research and employment for thousands of nuclear scientists, many of whom are now desperately seeking work and being enticed by offers from countries eager to develop nuclear weapons.

□ Grozny: Chechen authorities have arrested suspects in connection with Thursday's car bomb attack on President Maskhadov. (Reuters)

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مركزنا من الأمل

Ladies who lunch and lust

JAMES BONE'S
NEW YORK



JEFFREY JAH'S weekly parties at the Bowery Bar throb with loud music, drunken chitchat and raw sexual energy. Legions of crewcut Wall Streeters rendezvous there every Thursday night with hordes of Wonderbra-wearing women toting cellphones of their own. Their common objective is to find love.

At first the tables are segregated by sex. Five testosterone-charged men sit back-slapping at one table; six women talking at the next. As the night progresses, the two groups merge around the bar in the converted petrol station in the city's once notorious Skid Row. "It's simple," explains a jaded female veteran of the dating game. "If you have a cute body, you get to sleep with a sleazy guy."

It was at the Bowery Bar and other modish Manhattan night-spots that Candace Bushnell first devised her taxonomy of wildlife in the sexual jungle. The short, hairy predator putting the moves on the leggy girl near the pool is clearly a "modeliser", a man who only dates women who decorate the catwalk.

Beside the bar is an obvious "serial dater" who engages in 12 or more "serious relationships" a year. And the self-confident older gentleman with a younger woman on his lap must be one of those "toxic bachelors", so notorious that other men steer clear of his former conquests for fear of appearing second best.

And that tubby girl in the corner? In Ms Bushnell's parlance, she's definitely a "civilian", that is, a non-model.

A self-described "sexual anthropologist", Ms Bushnell used to write a ribald column in the weekly *New York Observer* called "Sex in the City" chronicling the "End of Love" in a city where "beauty is fleeting, but a rent-controlled apartment overlooking the park is forever". Her tales of sexual disappointment won a cultish following in the New York singles scene and were collected into a book that found its place as a Nineties version of *Sex and the Single Girl*. The columns have been adapted into a 12-part series and are to be shown soon on Channel 4.

Channel 4 declined to say how much it paid, but insiders confirm it was a "hefty" price. The popularity of US programmes, such as *Seinfeld* and *Friends*, has pushed their value up. Channel 4 originally paid \$150,000 (£91,500) an hour for *ER* but this recently increased to \$250,000 an hour because of competitive bidding from Channel 5.

In the television version, Ms Bushnell's alter ego, Carrie Bradshaw, is played by Sarah Jessica Parker, who (although happily married to Matthew Broderick) manages at least six on-screen conquests. In the debut episode she sets out to discover if a woman, armed with a condom, can have sex without commitment, like men. "If you're a successful single woman in this city, you have two choices: you can beat your head against the wall trying to find a relationship, or you can say 'screw it' and just go out and have sex like a man," Carrie says. After work-



Funky series: so much girlie talk



Carrie aka Candace Bushnell: the riddle is "why so few good single men?"

ing out with an old lover, her alter ego concludes that it is indeed possible — as in "wham-bam, thank you man!" Channel 4 believes this series is going to be a big hit. A source said: "It has a funkiness to it. It is very sharply written. The four protagonists are ... out for themselves and gratuitous sex."

Carrie and her three thirty-something girlfriends make an "Ab Fab" duo-times-two.

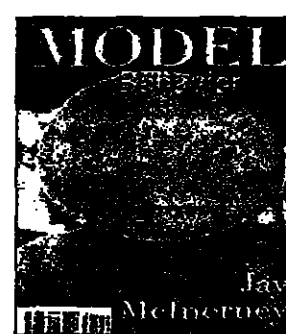
Miranda is the cynical lawyer; Samantha is the over-sexed PR person; Charlotte the Ivy League art dealer. They tackle the burning issues of the day. "Are men in their 20s the new designer drug?"; "Are married people the enemy?"; "Overshadowing all their girly talk, however, is the one constant of life in the city that never sleeps — the shortage of good single men." "It's like the riddle of the Sphinx," Carrie says. "Why

are there so many great unmarried women, and no great unmarried men?" The female foursome tour the favourite venues of aspiring ladies-who-lunch in search of some semblance of Mr Right, ranging far and wide from the Metropolitan Museum of Art to the Dolce & Gabbana boutique in SoHo and TriBeCa's trendy Chaos Club — the TV series' stand-in for the Bowery Bar.

Brat Pack stalks the catwalk

AMERICAN literature had an outstanding year in 1997 with the publication of hefty tomes by such masters as Thomas Pynchon, Don DeLillo, Norman Mailer, John Updike and Philip Roth. Now it is the turn of the younger generation, who defined the *Zeitgeist* of the cocaine-crazed Eighties. In the coming months, two Brat Pack novelists are publishing new work and, if we are to believe them, contemporary America boils down to one thing: models.

Jay McInerney and Bret Easton Ellis, the *enfant terrible* of the book party circuit, are publishing novels with the same New York publishing house, the same editor and the same agent about more or less the same subject. Once, café society mutated into what Noel Coward dubbed Nescafé so-



Strutting into print: novels of Fashion Café society

city. Now it seems we have moved into the era of Fashion Café society. McInerney's *Model Behaviour* traces the failing relationship between a writer for a celebrity magazine and his beautiful girlfriend, Philomena, a model and aspiring actress. McInerney told one interviewer: "What appeals to me about writing about a model is what it tells us about us."

McInerney's friend Bret Easton Ellis, author of *Less Than Zero* and *American Psycho*, has meanwhile penned a thriller about a would-be actor who dates

models and prowls the fashion worlds of London, Paris and New York. Gary Fisketjon, who edited both authors for Alfred A. Knopf, said the two novels were entirely different. "Tama Janowitz, whose Eighties novel *Slaves of New York* made her the female member of the Brat Pack, is sceptical. "In this country, becoming a model is a girl's fantasy, like getting her own horse, but you get over it by the time you are 12 or 13," she said. "That men would go on being interested in that is a bit sad."

Hunt is on for the best

ACADEMY AWARD winner Helen Hunt's collaboration with the British director Nicholas Hytner in *Twelfth Night* has been winning rave reviews. As I reported a couple of months ago, the earnest Hunt (who won this year's best actress Oscar for *As Good As It Gets*) studied for the part of Viola with John Barton, the veteran British Shakespearean and a founder of the RSC. Clive Barnes of the *New York Post* calls the play, at the Lincoln Centre, "un- equivocally the best American-produced Shakespeare in more than three decades".

Kids at a Brooklyn school, dubbed *Hip Hop High*, are being taught graffiti. In a course called *Hip Hop 101*, pupils sketch designs for "roasting" subway cars and "tagging" shopfronts. The teacher then tells them if their sketches are "dope". The headmaster, a former street gang member, insists classes must be "relevant".



Crackdown coming: on adult entertainment

Porn to be wild

AS THE city begins closing down sex shops as part of the Mayor's "quality-of-life" campaign, New York marshals have run into a tricky problem categorising certain videos.

According to the legislation, a video shop must move to a permitted location — such as an outlying industrial area — if more than 40 per cent of its stock of tapes are deemed pornographic. But female wrestling videos are causing a headache. "If

they wrestle with their tops on, is it sport or sex?" asked one bemused Times Square dealer. And what about foot fetishism, rubber gear or spanking tapes? Meanwhile, go-go girls are donning bikinis in the hope of evading the new restrictions on topless bars. Rudolph Giuliani, the Mayor, insists that a few stick-on patches — known as "pasties" — will not be enough to keep a strip joint open.

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Mr Jones keeps his covenant

Ross Dunn in Qumran finds the real-life Indiana Jones keeping the faith in his pursuit of sacred relics

THE well-worn brown hat definitely fits the part of Indiana Jones but this man does not brandish a whip nor carry a gun, at least not on his archaeological dig in the arid depths of the Jordan Valley.

Through rumour and legend his name has become associated with the character portrayed by Harrison Ford, who three times starred as a swashbuckling archaeologist and adventurer. In reality Vendyl Jones, 66, with a wispy white beard and bald head would not make it very far as a Hollywood pin-up.

"I sure don't look like Harrison Ford," he said in a broad Texan drawl, as his small group of volunteers scratched and scraped their way through an ancient cave in Qumran, overlooking the Dead Sea. "I do have a pistol and whip but not on this excavation."

It was in these caves that the Dead Sea Scrolls — perhaps the most significant archaeological find of the century — were uncovered between 1947 and 1956. It is here that the real-life Jones has for three decades displayed the same determination as his mythical namesake to unearth the treasures of the ancient Israelites, pull off the archaeological find of the millennium and alter the course of Jewish history.

The Texan and his followers are convinced that they are on the right track to unearth the Ark of the Covenant, which contained the tablets handed down to Moses on Mount Sinai. "The cave where we will

find the Tabernacle [Israel's tent of worship carried during the exodus from Egypt to the Promised Land] is completely covered but we know where it is," he said, claiming to have located a secret chamber through use of a penetrating radar.

Despite his detractors, he claims that his search is based on sound historical evidence. Before the Second Temple was destroyed by the Romans, Mr Jones is convinced that the Israelites managed to smuggle out their treasures and conceal them at Qumran.

Like any good treasure-seeker he has a map, known as the Copper Scroll, also found in the caves of Qumran, which he insists gave him the location of the sacred objects, where he is now digging. Recently he uncovered traces of spices burnt by Jewish priests.

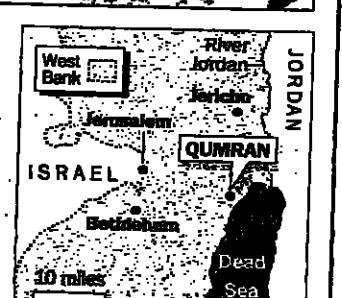
"I have lived in this area since 1967. I have slept here. I have digested, I have been up every wadi, been up every mountain. I have checked every cave that I could find. This environment is in my blood," he said.

But he is regarded with scepticism by mainstream archaeologists. Ya'akov Billig, an archaeologist with the Israeli Antiquities Authority, said: "I don't think he is on the right track."

Mr Billig said that according to rabbinical sources the treasures of the ancient Israelites had either been hidden under or near the Temple Mount in Jerusalem or taken by the Romans. He believed



Vendyl Jones, above, explains the significance of lettering on a scroll at Qumran, the Dead Sea site where he has been excavating for 30 years. Harrison Ford, right, as archaeologist-adventurer Indiana Jones, has an illuminating moment in front of the sacred Ark of the Covenant in the film *Raiders of the Lost Ark*



that both theories may be correct and that some treasures were now hidden in both cities, although no one had ever proved the objects still existed.

However, should Mr Jones succeed in finding what he is

looking for, the consequences would be of more than historical interest.

The Ark of the Covenant and other Jewish treasures were stored in Jerusalem's Temple Mount, currently dominated by the Dome of the

WORLD IN BRIEF

Serb twins enjoy last laugh on SAS

Bosnian Serb twins mistakenly arrested as war criminals by an SAS unit laughed and joked during their capture, it emerged yesterday, knowing they had lured the pursuers into a hoax (Tom Walker writes).
Bosnian Serbs were toasting Miroslav and Milan Vucicovic, the twins snatched instead of Predrag and Nenad Banovic. Most people believe that the Banovic brothers, wanted by The Hague in connection with war crimes against Muslims in 1992, knew that their house was under surveillance and persuaded the twins to live there and wait for the inevitable knock at the door from the SAS.
Bosnian Serb police were reported yesterday as saying that the twins were physically abused during their detention and would sue for damages.

Taleban hijacks Diana aid

Kabul: Taleban militiamen have snatched two new Land Rovers donated by the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund to a charity providing artificial limbs to Afghan mine victims, aid sources said. The Muslim fighters took them after closing a Kabul clinic run by Sandy Gall's Afghanistan appeal, a charity set up by the British newscaster. The vehicles now ferry guerrillas through Kabul. (AFP)

White House in Starr talks

Washington: President Clinton's lawyers have begun talks with Kenneth Starr, the independent prosecutor, over White House co-operation in the Monica Lewinsky inquiry, and the possibility Mr Clinton would testify (Bronwen Maddox writes). Mike McCurry, White House spokesman, said a Clinton lawyer was trying to work out "something that would help ensure" the information needed was provided.

Minister's aide is aged 13

Kingston: Jamaica has appointed Makonnen Blake Hannah, 13, as its Youth and Technology Consultant. The boy, described as a computer whiz-kid, will accompany Philip Paulwell, the Commerce and Technology Minister, to technology events dealing with youth and offer advice on hardware and software. He will be paid an honorarium, but will have to fit his new job around his daily studies. (AP)

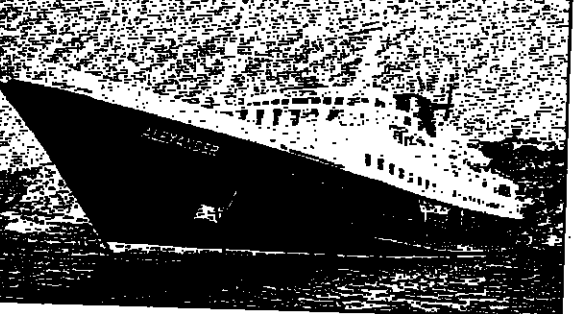
Pioneer paparazzo dies

Rome: Tazio Secchiaroli, the photographer who inspired the paparazzo character in Federico Fellini's film *La Dolce Vita*, has died, aged 73. He was one of a pack of photographers who pursued film stars and other VIPs along Rome's Via Veneto and in nightclubs in the 50s and 60s. After *La Dolce Vita*, the term "paparazzi" became synonymous with star-chasing photographers. (AP)

China puts 1m on flood alert

Wuhan: A Chinese boy eats his lunch floating on an old inner tube on floodwaters near Wuhan in Hubei province. Beijing has mobilised a million soldiers and local residents to contain a new mass of water gathering in the upper reaches of the Yangtze River (Our Foreign Staff writes). Flooding in southern and central China has claimed 1,000 lives since May. In Bangladesh, ten million people are now affected by floods, including a million marooned in remote areas.

Rich and famous float in luxury aboard mega-yacht



FROM PHILIP FANGALOS IN ATHENS
FOR the A-list of celebrities there is only one holiday address — the *Alexander*, left, the mega-yacht owned by John Latsis, the Greek shipping billionaire.
George Bush and his wife, Barbara, are on board cruising the islands and the Prince of Wales will shortly repeat a cruise he made last year with Princes William and Harry. In 1992 he and Diana, Princess of Wales, embarked on a second-honeymoon cruise to try to rekin-

die their marriage. The Bushes, accompanied by retired US General Colin Powell and his wife, will bask in an interior which features 300 tonnes of marble, much of it in a Turkish bath that occupies the width of the vessel.
The *Alexander*, at 402ft, qualifies as a mega-yacht, which is anything at least 275ft in length.
Mr Latsis, who made large donations to the Tory Party and owns parts of Mayfair, can easily afford the bills to run the ship, which underwent a major refit three years ago. She now features a large

"A" on her funnel, appropriate for a vessel named after Alexander the Great.
A joke goes that the yacht has seen more politicians than the White House. The former Soviet President, Mikhail Gorbachev, is another of the shipping mogul's friends who has spent time on board.
A regular visitor says the ship is "like the Connaught Hotel inside". The *Alexander* can carry 90 people at a time and cater to every need. Should passengers require to leave at a moment's notice, a helicopter service is at hand.



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FROM ROBERT WHYMAN IN TOKYO

TOKYO VOTE	
Keizo Obuchi	225
Seiroku Kajiyama	102
Junichiro Koizumi	84
Total votes	411
Invalid votes	1

KEIZO OBUCHI, the Foreign Minister and newly elected leader of Japan's ruling party, yesterday said that his first priority as Prime Minister would be to pull Japan out of its economic morass.

"The pressing issue facing us is to rebuild the Japanese economy and eliminate the people's sense of uncertainty," Mr Obuchi told a press conference after his election as president of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP).

Mr Obuchi, 61, is almost certain to become Prime Minister because the LDP controls the Lower House of parliament, which is due to decide on the next Prime Minister at a special session next week.

The Foreign Minister was the clear winner in the bitter struggle to succeed Ryutaro Hashimoto, who is stepping down and taking the blame for the LDP's disastrous showing

in the July 12 Upper House election. After the result was announced, Mr Obuchi pledged to unite the party and strive for harmony, prompting speculation that he would offer important party or Cabinet posts to his two rivals in the leadership contest, Seiroku Kajiyama, 72, and Junichiro Koizumi, the Health Minister, who is 56.

Though the candidates appealed to the public in televised debates, the leadership was ultimately decided through old-style horse-trading among LDP factions, a tradition widely decry by the media and Opposition. Mr Obuchi commands the biggest

power bloc within the ruling party.

But Mr Obuchi was the candidate least favoured by the markets, because of doubts that he could provide the strong leadership needed to overcome Japan's economic problems.

Mr Obuchi became the youngest person ever elected to the Lower House when at 26 he inherited his father's seat. The contrast with Mr Hashimoto, who earned parliament in the same election — also taking over his father's seat — could hardly be greater. Mr Obuchi is low-key, cautious and unassuming, while Mr Hashimoto is prone to flamboyance and boastfulness.

"To endure and be humble is important," Mr Obuchi once said, summing up his personal philosophy.

The respected *Asahi Shimbun* newspaper said his main qualification for securing the party's top job was that he had

not offended anyone in his political career. It noted that his consensus-building skills would stand him in good stead in stable times, but less so when Japan was sorely in need of strong leadership to weather the current economic crisis.

Though he has the strongest party support, informal opinion polls showed that of the three candidates he was the least popular with the general public. His lack of appeal stems partly from an inability to express himself clearly.

According to Hideaki Kase, the author and political commentator, "He's never expressed original thoughts in his life as far as I know."

Before yesterday's vote, some younger MPs openly questioned whether Mr Obuchi was suited to lead the party into the next general election, when he will be competing against Naoto Kan, the charismatic opposition leader.



Women in Tokyo's Ginza shopping district digest the news of Keizo Obuchi's election as leader of the Liberal Democratic Party yesterday. Of the three candidates, Mr Obuchi was the least popular with the public.

Defectors from Khmer Rouge thrive on vices of free market

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN PHNOM PENH

Once, being caught by the Khmer Rouge for having a pack of cards was sufficient reason to earn a sentence in a re-education camp and illicit sex was punished by death. But today, near the former Khmer Rouge stronghold of Pailin, Thai highrollers gamble at roulette and blackjack at the aptly named "jungle casino", and prostitutes solicit clients.

The gambling frenzy prompted one recent diplomatic visitor to note that there are now more one-armed bandits in the former rebel capital than Maoist guerrillas.

On Sunday, a more radical change is in store when the town, in effect a semi-independent state within a state, goes to the polls for the first time to elect a member of Cambodia's 122-seat parliament.

Appropriately, all six candidates in Pailin are former

Khmer Rouge guerrillas who once subscribed to the extremist teachings of Pol Pot, their tyrannical leader, who died in April. Today the hopefuls represent mainstream Cambodian political parties, at least in name.

"This will be one of the most intriguing contests in the Cambodian election," a diplomat in Phnom Penh, the Cambodian capital, said.

Elsewhere along the Thai-Cambodian border near Anlong Veng, hardline Khmer Rouge remnants are in their death throes, their numbers having dwindled from 1,500 to 200. The band, still fighting off final defeat, killed two Cambodian election workers last weekend. Yet, even in Anlong Veng, polling stations will be open on Sunday to enable those courageous enough to ignore Khmer Rouge threats to vote.

In late 1996 when I flew into Pailin by helicopter to watch 5,000 Khmer Rouge guerrillas under the command of Ieng Sary, one of Pol Pot's former close lieutenants, laying down their arms, rebel officers said they would never allow social evils such as gambling, prostitution and drug dealing, endemic in the rest of Cambodia, to flourish there. But in less than two years the Marxist strictures of the Pol Pot era have given way to the worst excesses of the free-market economy in this bizarre Khmer Rouge enclave.

Even at midday, and despite signs that declare that "prostitution is strictly forbidden", Thai and Cambodian callgirls strut alluringly where in the past guerrillas wearing Mao caps and brandishing AK47s held sway.

The open-air "jungle casino" — where crumpets wear black ties but flip-flops on their feet — is already in full swing just inside the Cambodian border, while construction on a second casino — a barn-like building which is the biggest in Pailin — is almost over. Eighteen gaming tables are in place at the Caesar International Casino, a joint-venture between Thai businessmen and senior Khmer Rouge defectors.

In return for their defections, the Cambodian Government of Hun Sen had agreed that the "reformed" rebel leaders would be permitted to "run their own show" in Pailin, where the Khmer Rouge had grown prosperous on illegal gem-mining and logging. They were also promised one seat in the National Assembly.

Some Western envoys, however, are worried about the possibility of a Khmer Rouge Trojan horse. "I never quite feel comfortable with Khmer Rouge defectors," said an observer. "And I would never sleep in Pailin with both eyes shut."

For their part, the hardline Khmer Rouge remnants, under the leadership of the ruthless Ta Mok and Nuon Chea, have so far resisted the free-market glitz and are holed up in the rainforests.

Some foreign governments still want Ta Mok and Nuon Chea to face a war crimes trial, and three foreign jurists are in Phnom Penh to decide whether a case for genocide can be brought against them.

Diplomats say that Khmer Rouge defectors to the Government, such as the ruthless Ke Pauk, whose bands are just as bloody as Ta Mok's, should also be tried, along with Ieng Sary. But this is unlikely to happen. Observers say a majority of Cambodians — despite the fact that a million died in the Khmer Rouge "killing fields" — have no enthusiasm for the kind of trial being held in The Hague to punish the ethnic cleansers of the former Yugoslavia.

"This is not Europe, and most Cambodians want to put the past behind them and achieve reconciliation with a fresh start," said a Western ambassador. "There are fears such trials would open up old wounds, and perhaps even lead to new fighting."

But diplomats say that King Sihanouk, the monarch, believes that a genocide trial should be held and those found guilty be sentenced but not serve their sentences. They say that King Sihanouk's approach would allow a brutal chapter to be closed.



Monks in Phnom Penh appeal for a peaceful election tomorrow. A threat of unrest after the poll came from General Nhiek Bun Chhay, the head of Prince Ranariddh's army. He said he would form a new resistance force if he were not incorporated into the national army. The Thai military is ready to evacuate 480 foreign monitors if there is violence.

SUDAN EMERGENCY

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THE SUNDAY TIMES

HITLER AND THE HITMEN



Wartime files released last week revealed plans to assassinate Hitler in 1944. But behind those plots is the story of a small group of British officers who first targeted the dictator in 1941 and went on to amass an extraordinary file on their quarry...

Read the full story of the plots to kill Hitler - News Review tomorrow

THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS

Condon's Untouchables ready to finger collars

Anti-corruption squad is poised to make arrests, writes Stewart Tendler

SIR PAUL CONDON should be resting on his laurels today. He is now in the last 18 months of his term as Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police. He has cut crime and launched important reforms.

But as he approaches the end of a notable career, Sir Paul faces the worst corruption in his force for years. To combat that threat, he has launched the most wide-ranging internal inquiry Scotland Yard has ever seen. His anti-corruption squad of "Untouchables" now consists of 180 officers. The squad has itself become the biggest detective force in London.

Within the next few months the Yard forecasts significant arrests. Sir Paul believes there could be up to 250 officers involved in corruption, from drug dealing to organising armed robberies, selling information to criminals, sabotaging cases for cash and taking cuts from rigged rewards.

London's CID, still a powerful force within a force, has



Sir Paul Condon, left, and John Donald, now in jail



reacted with fury at the allegations. Opponents say the anti-corruption investigators are often wasting time on trivia. The claims of corruption are said to be fantasy and some of the officers under suspicion are expected to sue.

Sir Paul remains firm in his belief at the depth of corruption in the force. The sniping is said to come from corrupt officers in a black propaganda battle. The Commissioner be-

lieves the average policeman backs him to the hilt.

Some of the most successful thief-takers in London, he says, have mixed duty with profit and have lined their pockets with payments of £100,000 a time. They have become entrepreneurs with warrant cards. In addition, senior officers may have turned a blind eye, been inept or worse. The days of the 1960s when detective offices held share-

outs each Friday and every man collected his take have gone. Now the corruption is within tight-knit groups, and former officers may be corrupting younger officers.

Profits from drugs dwarf anything that armed robbery gangs could earn and the police can make their money from protection or even dealing in their own right. Traffickers have tried to protect their investments. One detective said: "They did to us what we did to them. They started to seek out informants and were prepared to pay."

Intelligence has suggested there are at least 30 "meat eaters" - police looking for the chance to make cash out of their work and exploiting investigations to see what they could get. In some cases the officers are said to have even organised their promotions so that they could find new areas to exploit.

There is also a second group of "grass eaters", who take an opportunity when they find it.



Sir Paul believes there could be up to 250 corrupt police officers in his force

They might steal part of a haul recovered by police or pick up cash seized during a search. At least 70 officers could fit that description.

The first inkling of the extent of the corruption came more than four years ago with the arrest of John Donald, a detective on secondment to the South-East Regional Crime Squad. Donald was not caught by the police but as a result of a BBC investigation.

Judges are warned on Masonic register

By RICHARD FORD HOME CORRESPONDENT



Shayler has run out of money in exile

THE Lord Chancellor told the judiciary yesterday that a large-scale refusal to answer a question on Masonic membership would undermine public confidence in it. Lord Irvine of Lairg has written to sitting judges asking them voluntarily to admit membership of Masonic lodges for inclusion in a public register.

Although he stressed that responding to the question was optional, Lord Irvine said he hoped judges and heads of tribunals would consider the question carefully. In a letter to the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Bingham of Cornhill, the Lord Chancellor, highlighted the dangers posed by a large number of judges failing to cooperate with the register.

"I do believe that any substantial 'non co-operation' could create a suspicion in the minds of the public and weaken confidence in the judiciary."

The letter will be sent to 5,000 full and part-time judges plus the heads of tribunals.

The Lord Chief Justice, who is not a Freemason, opposes judges having to disclose membership and has said there is no evidence that Masonic links have diverted judges from their duty.

No deal for former MI5 officer

A FORMER MI5 officer who is under investigation for a suspected breach of the Official Secrets Act has been refused immunity from prosecution in return for co-operating with the authorities (Michael Evans writes).

David Shayler, who is in France, has made it clear through his lawyers that he wants to return home because he has run out of money.

Scotland Yard Special Branch officers are still investigating his case, after his revelations in *The Mail on Sunday* last year.

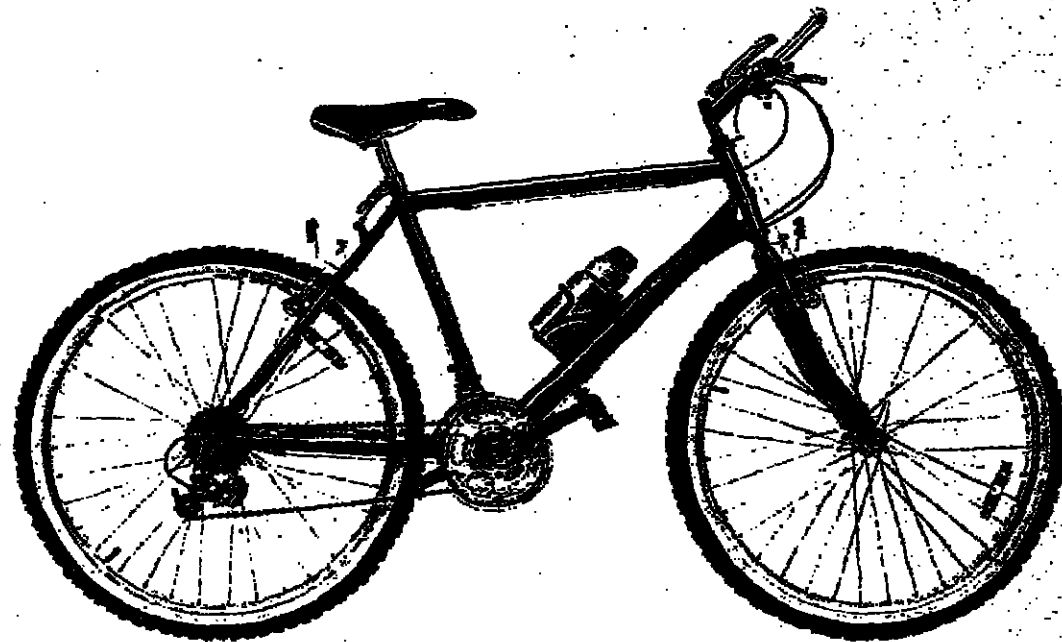
John Wadham, Mr Shayler's lawyer and director of Liberty, the civil rights organisation, had been trying to negotiate a deal to enable his client to return without facing arrest.

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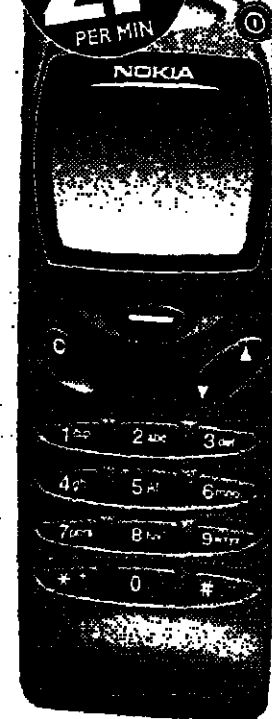
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Parents' guide to surviving the holidays

By CLAUDIA JOSEPH

THE SUMMER holidays are upon us and parents once again face the challenge of entertaining their children in the six long weeks before the return to school.

Many take their children to Madame Tussaud's which, with nearly 2.8 million visitors last year, is still the top tourist attraction, but there are scores of other destinations, including Alton Towers, the Tower of London, Chessington World of Adventures and Legoland.

The English Tourist Board says that one of the most popular ways for children to spend the summer is taking part in activity holidays. It

reports a 10 per cent increase in adventure trips from 9.9 million in 1996 to 10.9 the following year. More than £1.6 billion was spent on activity holidays last year.

A spokeswoman said: "People are looking more and more for things to do with children. They are looking for centres where adults can do certain things as well as children."

Aquaria too are fast becoming some of Britain's favourite tourist attractions, with more than 30 now open. The National Maritime Aquarium in Plymouth, officially opened yesterday by the Duke of Edinburgh, is the first charitable non-profit-making Aquarium, which aims to educate and con-

serve. Simon Bradley, a spokesman, said: "We have full-time teachers, care programmes across a range of species and captive breeding programmes for sea horses."

Yesterday Chris Smith stressed the importance of enjoyment as well as education for children.

The Secretary for Culture, Media and Sport, who is encouraging museums and art galleries to drop entrance charges for children, said: "I believe passionately in the enormous educational and enjoyment values of our great national museums. There is nothing better for children than being introduced to living history and living art throughout the years."

SUSANNAH BOWEN

TEN OF THE BEST BIG RIDES

Vertigo at Oakwood Coaster Country, Canaston Bridge, Northampton, Pembrokeshire. Is described as a cross between a bungee jump and a giant swing, and drops you 43 metres at 65mph. Open daily: 10am-10pm. Family ticket (2 adults 2 children) £35.95, adults £9.95, children £8.95. Tel: 01834 891660.

The Rattlesnake Ride at Chessington World of Adventures, Chessington, Surrey. Is a twisting rollercoaster in which mining trucks shoot around a Mexican mine. Open daily: 10am-5/6pm. Admission: adult £19, children £15. Tel: 01372 727227.

Dolphins, The Ride, at The Magical World of Fantasy Island, Ingoldmells, Stagsness. Is Britain's newest ride. It takes you on a simulation adventure beneath the sea to experience oceanic life. Open daily: 10-6pm. Rides are priced individually. Tel: 01754 872030.

Optivion at Alton Towers, Staffordshire. Is Britain's first white-knuckle ride, which although lasting 160 seconds, drops its riders 60 metres at 70mph. Daily 9.30-5pm. Family tickets £59 (two adults and two children, or one adult and three), £19.50 adults, £15.50 children. Tel: 01538 703344.

At 62 metres high with speeds of 85mph Blackpool's Pepsil Max Big One is the world's tallest and fastest rollercoaster. Open daily: 10am (weather permitting). Admission: £20.00, £9.00, £9.50 depending on choice of ride. Tel: 01253 343958.

Nemesis at Alton Towers is a lightning-fast rollercoaster for hardened riders which carries you weightless for four seconds. See details above.

The Ejector Seat Challenge at Great Yarmouth Pleasure Beach catapults its riders 150ft into the air at 60mph, achieved in under one second. Open daily: 11am-10pm. Admission: free followed by a choice of a token system for individual rides or a fee of £8 for unlimited use. Tel: 01493 844585.

Reach speeds of more than 80mph and do loop-the-loop twice on Scotland's biggest ride, The Tornado at M and D Leisure, Strathclyde Country Park, Motherwell, Glasgow. Open daily: 12.00pm-10pm. Admission: free. Unlimited access to rides: adults £3.95, family ticket (two adults and two children) £30 and children £6.75. Tel: 01698 333 998.

Wet Wet Wet is the only swimmer ride at a UK theme park and is also the latest ride at Thorpe Park, Staines Road, Chertsey, Surrey, consisting of a trio of twisting torpedo rides ending in a swimming pool. Open daily: 9.30am-7.30pm. Admission: adults £16.50, under-14s £13.00, children (under 1 metre) free. Tel: 01932 577105.



Free-fall on Vertigo at Oakwood Coaster Country

No Way Out at Thorpe Park is a rollercoaster which flies through a pyramid backwards as well as in the dark. See details above.

FIVE THINGS TO DO FOR FREE

Wander inside a giant biological cell or go on an interactive tour of the human body in the Science for Life exhibition at The Wellcome Trust, 183 Euston Road, London, NW1 2BE. Tel: 0171 611 7211.

Open Monday-Friday 9.45am to 5pm and Saturday 9.45am to 1pm.

Get lost in Britain's biggest Palm House at Edinburgh's Royal Botanic Garden, 20a Inverleith Row, Edinburgh, Midlothian EH3 5LR. Tel: 0131 552 7171.

Open daily 10am to 8pm.

Children can join in "The Five Senses", two weeks of herbal craft activities at The Geoffrey Museum, Kingsland Road, London E2. Tel: 0171 739 9893.

Book now as places are limited. The museum itself is free and opens Tuesday-Saturday 10am to 5pm and Sunday 2pm to 5pm.

Admire the sculpture while the children play in 200 acres of parkland at the Yorkshire Sculpture Park, Bretton Hall, Bretton, Wakefield, West Yorkshire, WF4 4LG. Tel: 01924 830302.

Open daily 10am to 8pm. Shops, café and parking on site.

Children from 11 to 16 years can try their hand at making their own animated films at Manchester's The Cornerhouse, 70 Oxford Street, Manchester, M1 5NH. Tel: 0161 228 2463.

The course runs from July 27-31, so book quickly. Otherwise, check out Vivid, the Cornerhouse's regular Saturday morning arts activity sessions.

FIVE LONDON FAVOURITES

The Royal Albert Hall, Exhibition Centre, Kensington Road, (nearest to Victoria Station) and includes a large number of activities for all ages. Tickets are £11.50, £19 and £25 with discounts for families and groups of more than 10. Office: 0171 224 6244.

The Museum of Childhood, Image St, South London (nearest to Elephant & Castle) gives the history of toys and television, and includes a good day out daily: 10am-5pm (last admission 4pm). Admission: £4.50, £2.50 for adults and two children. Tel: 0171 401 2636.

The BGC Experience, Broadwing, Newington Place, W14 (nearest to Tube Circus) is a laboratory

Myths and Monsters at the Natural History Museum, London, SW7. Tel: 0171 938 9123. Open Mon-Sat, 10am-5.50pm, Sun, 11am-5.50pm. Adults £5, children £3, family pass (two adults and four children) £16; free after 4.30pm.

The Science of Sport at the Science Museum, London, SW7. Tel: 0171 938 8008. Adults £9.50 (includes admission to rest of museum); children £5.50.

The Land Rover from its beginning to Judge Dredd's sci-fi model at Beaulieu National Motor Museum. Tel: 01256 812245. Open daily, 10am-6pm. Adults £9.50, children £5; family ticket £28.

Hands-on science at Techniquest, Stuart Street, Cardiff. Tel: 01222 475475. Open Mon-Fri, 9.30am to 4.30pm; weekends, 10.30am-5pm. Adults £4.75; children £3.50; family ticket £19.50; children under 5 free.

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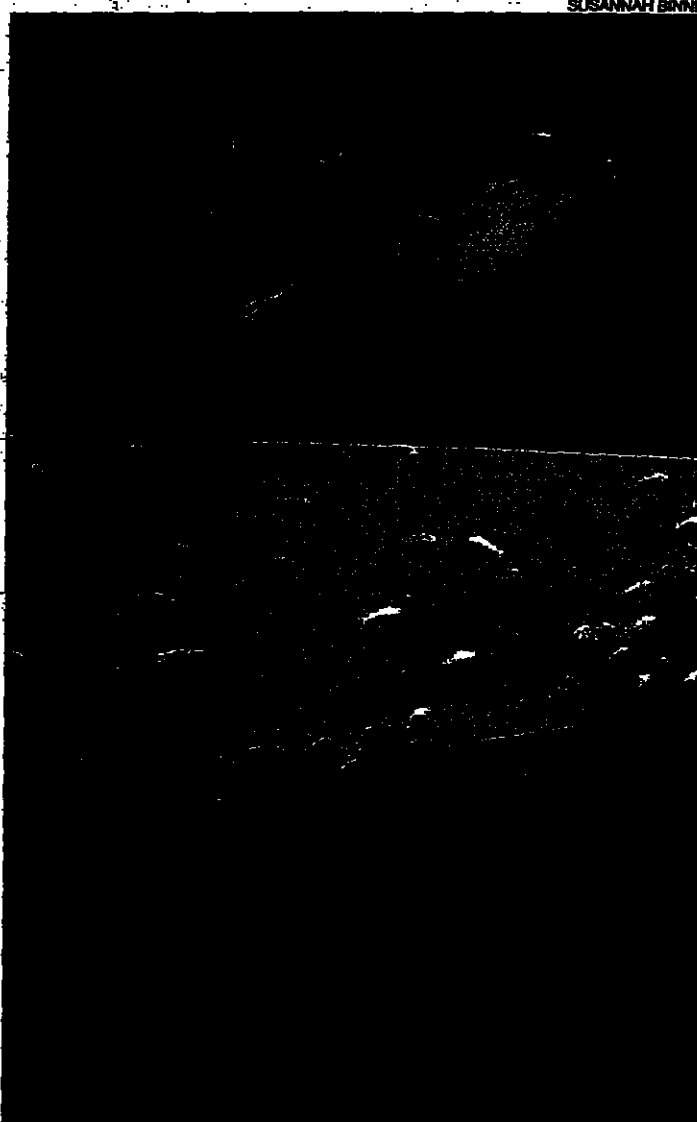
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Maori exhibition at the British Museum, London, WC1. Tel: 0171 638 1555. Open Mon-Sat, 10am-5pm, Sun, 2.30pm-5pm. Adults £5; children £2 (free Maori dancing classes: 0171 323 8511).

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European Nations Cup exhibition at Glasgow Museum of Transport. Tel: 0141 253 2721. Open Mon, Wed-Sat, 10am-5pm; Sun, 11am-5pm. Admission free.

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THE BRITISH FILM INDUSTRY

VALERIE GROVE MEETS

ALAN PARKER

The rebel who has made a commitment

ALAN PARKER's decision to take on the chairmanship of the British Film Institute provoked widespread astonishment. It was a bit like making Tony Benn Defence Secretary.

seeking the fundamental social level of any text in its unconscious fantasmatic projections of social relations.

book, I asked foolishly, or just the script? "I WROTE the script," he replied.

Parker was the scourge of the BFI. Did he not make a television documentary, *A Turnip Head's Guide to the British Cinema*, a frontal assault on the film establishment, film critics, and the BFI's exclusive film buff orthodoxy?

They told him the unsalaried post would mean just nine board meetings a year. Because he was a fan of Tony Blair's, and homesick after years in Los Angeles, he took the job. He even bought a new suit and a tie. But what followed was five months in rolled up sleeves and braces, scouring the Augean stables.

The acclaimed director of *Midnight Express*, *Shoot the Moon*, *Mississippi Burning*, *The Commitments* and *Evita* was bound to be a new kind of figurehead. He appointed a new BFI director, the sharp and impressive John Woodward and, in Woodward's words, set out to cut the crap.

Parker's corpulent figure is made for caricature, like Hitchcock's, and is topped by the instantly recognisable Bunier specs and grey hair parted in the centre. Since he is about to appear on television, he wrestles himself into a thick black wool jacket over his corduroy trousers. The effect is comical. "Do I look chairpersonally?" he asks.



Alan Parker is likely to be a favoured candidate to head Chris Smith's new Film Council

What the BFI was not for (in his unspoken sub-text) was a self-indulgent lack of respect for what audiences might enjoy, or over-intellectual obsession with structural linguistics. (I picked up, while waiting for Parker, a little BFI book by Colin MacCabe about the film *Performance* and found at random this sentence: "Frederic Jameson reinvented the Marxist hermeneutic in his Political Unconscious by

come together in a Film Council, or what Parker is calling the Big Box. The Big Box will need a superno (or czar) and it seems probable that the favoured candidate will be Parker. As a practitioner, he knows all about the obstacles to getting British films made (although ironically, the difficulty at the moment is there really aren't as many great scripts as there ought to be) and to getting them distributed. "Fifty per cent of British films don't get shown in Britain because the multiplexes are dominated by the American product. More people in Paris saw Mike Leigh's *Secrets and Lies* than in the whole of the UK."

His accent is unconstructed Islington Cockney. He can be truculent and chippy; don't ask him where he's bought a house in London. But he obviously charms people when he needs to, for example President Menem of Argentina, who allowed him to film scenes for *Evita* in the Casa Rosada.

"I shouldn't be here," Parker says. "I should be in the slums of Limerick." He is about to start shooting Frank McCourt's *Angela's Ashes*. Did he read the

advent of the American multiplex. The figures have doubled or what? "I don't know," he adds vaguely, "in the last whenever."

But doesn't it worry him that — as he pointed out in his lecture at Bafta last year — we now spend twice as much on staying in and seeing films on pay TV than on going out to the cinema?

"What's more of an issue is whether you can go to your local multiplex and see a British film made by a British film maker. I am a British film maker, but I don't often make films in this country," Parker, like Mike Apted and Mike Newell, soon got waylaid by Hollywood, and it's been boom-or-bust in the British film industry for

many years. But at the moment it's quiet strong and healthy. "When I started there was no such thing as television companies investing in film. There was just Wardour Street, with Rank at one end and EMI at the other, and if both said no there was nowhere else." For his first feature film, *Bugsy Malone*, an instant classic, Rank put up half the money; the other half came from the National Film Finance Corporation, later British Screen.

But Parker's directorial debut was actually before that, and anonymous. David Puttnam (Parker's friend since their days in advertising) rang him one day in 1973 and said that Claude



Alan Parker is likely to be a favoured candidate to head Chris Smith's new Film Council

Summer feasts set ablaze by scorching renditions

PROMS

IF THERE is anything to be said for our feeble summer weather, it must be that attending the Proms is more pleasant when the Albert Hall does not resemble a stale-smelling sauna. Especially as the cooler conditions have not been matched by a lowering of the musical temperature: on the contrary, standards so far this season have been as high as ever, and both concerts on Thursday blazed with musical cachet.

First out on the platform was the Philharmonia Orchestra, playing under Sir Roger Norrington for the first time in nearly a decade. The partnership proved remarkable in a well-balanced programme of the Fourth Symphonies of both Beethoven and Brahms: apart from their numbers these works have little in common, and Norrington brought their contrasting qualities to vivid and seemingly new life.

Indeed, though both these works are staple repertory for Norrington, there was no hint of over-familiarity in his totally fresh interpretations. The dark, expectant opening of the Beethoven gave way to sunny high spirits in a startling and wonderful way. The enigmatic Adagio flowed smoothly, and in succeeding movements the music remained buoyant.

This may not have been a note-perfect performance, but it had rare spirit and spontaneity. By the time it reached Brahms the orchestra had settled down, and was plainly inspired by this conductor's approach. Often the work's autumnal key of E minor is taken as a licence for wallowing, but this performance began with lightness and mystery.

A glowing slow movement was followed by a beautifully judged scherzo in which the triangle added an unusually bright touch, and Norrington pointed up all the instrumental detail in the variations of the finale.

The late-night Prom was Markus Stenz's last concert as principal conductor of the London Sinfonietta, so it was appropriate that the three featured composers have all been central to the Sinfonietta's work.

One of them, Wolfgang Rihm, was being heard at the Proms for the first time. *Gefügte Form*, as the "hunt" of its title implies, is a musical chase to which Stenz's urgent conducting brought real tension, in spite of a few directionless episodes in the piece.

Ligeti's *Chamber Concerto*, a subtle score full of hazy sonorities, sounded at its scintillating best thanks to the virtuosity that is all too easy to take for granted in Sinfonietta performers. Adams's clarinet concerto *Gnarly Buttons*, one of his richest scores, drew another witty and tender performance from the ensemble with Michael Collins, who delighted the audience with his wizardry on those "gnarly buttons" of his clarinet.

Here's hoping that the Sinfonietta will have won new supporters for its regular Queen Elizabeth Hall concerts.

JOHN ALLISON

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The cave of painted shadows

Ben Macintyre marvels at the wondrous artistry of our ancestors

One day in 1994, three astonished French potholers stumbled across an underground cavern in the Ardèche adorned with more than 300 cave paintings of unrivalled quality and age. The discovery revealed the breathtaking artistry of our prehistoric ancestors, but it also set off an explosion of avarice that has cast into relief some of the ugliest characteristics of their descendants.

Dating back at least 30,000 years, the images of lions, bears, panther, ibex, mammoth and other fauna tumbling in profusion across the walls of the cave are not only the oldest murals ever known but among the most beautiful, masterpieces of technical precision that have altered our understanding of how and why man came to depict the world around him. Every art prehistorian in the world agreed that this was a discovery beyond price, which did nothing to prevent the trove from becoming the focus of a grotesque scramble for profit, pecuniary and political.

This week, in the latest chapter of a shameful saga pitting finders against keepers, three French government officials were ordered to stand trial on fraud charges for allegedly trying to divide the cave's discoverers out of their share of the proceeds.

Most people have still not seen the full wonders of the Grotte Chauvet, for the simple reason that rights to reproduce photographs of the paintings are the subject of furious litigation. Greed has effectively hidden the paintings from view, just as surely as a rock-slide on a French hillside in the Upper Palaeolithic period concealed them 300 centuries ago. The contrast between the struggle for profit above ground and the simple wonder of the images themselves is striking, and chilling.

The cave paintings were probably executed by several people over a long period of time, but it is possible to detect a single artist behind the work, a master draftsman, perhaps with pupils and later imitators. He did not live in the cave, for there is no evidence of permanent human habitation. Instead the cavern, stretching 500 metres into the earth, appears to have been an atelier, a combination of studio and gallery, or perhaps even a form of shrine to the animals with which, and on which, the artist lived.

The painter was a meticulous worker, scrubbing the surface of his rock "canvas" before depicting, with bold strokes of red pigment and charcoal, the scenes from his life: a pride of lions stalking a baby mammoth, woolly rhinos locked in combat, the extinct giant deer and aurochs. Sometimes the images were engraved, or incorporated into the grain and contours of the rockface, a bulging outcrop

becoming the muscular haunch of a bison, overlaid silhouettes creating an impression of movement. He was also a perfectionist, drawing over earlier motifs in a continual work-in-progress.

The paintings prove that man not only mastered drawing far earlier than was thought, but with great assurance, using shading and perspective to give depth and movement to his bestiary. The artist was justifiably proud of his work, for he left his signature by spitting pigment on to a hand flattened against the rock, leaving a series of silhouettes.

The artist had nothing to gain from his paintings other than personal satisfaction, homage to his animals and the admiration of his fellows. It was 30 millennia before his works were exhibited again, and within hours of the discovery by potholer Jean-Marie Chauvet and two friends, an exploitation race was on. The cave was immediately declared a "national monument" and with the world's attention turned on France, the Gaullist MP Edouard Balladur, then Prime Minister, cannily chose the moment to announce his presidential candidacy. Within a week, four local residents had come forward, claiming land rights around the entrance to the cavern. They demanded £8 million; they were offered 25 centimes a square metre, for a total of about £4,000. The case continues.

The battle over the right to exploit the cave's contents was even more intense. M Chauvet accused the Government of making a fortune by selling his photographs of the paintings. Three government officials allegedly even conspired to backdate a prospecting licence in M Chauvet's name, to make it appear that he had been working for the State when he found the cave. Lawyers converged on the scene, scolding huge profits. Local officials, anticipating 400,000 visitors annually, plan to build a huge replica cave in nearby Vallon Font D'Arc, complete with virtual reality technology. That is the closest any of us will get to the cave paintings of the Grotte Chauvet.

The destruction of other prehistoric sites, the damage caused in the past by hasty excavation and armies of visitors, has convinced the French authorities that the only way to protect the cave art is to hide it. The Palaeolithic Picasso intended his works to be on display, but in our age that is impossible: the images are too lovely, too valuable, too fragile and too great-inducing to be seen by our eyes. And so, when the archaeologists and lawyers have finished their work, the cave will be sealed up, with an armed guard and an electronic security system, and this magnificent ancient art gallery will be plunged back into darkness forever.

The art is the focus of a grotesque scramble for profit



In a scrum for money

Rugby union has fallen victim to modern sporting commercialism

I knew something was wrong with rugby when I was 11 years old and standing on a playing field. A high ball arched towards me when, at the same estimated time of arrival, a tug twice my bodyweight hurtled into view, intent on grievous bodily harm. It was my last conscious memory of the game. I took up boxing instead, a safe, gentlemanly sport in which weight was matched to weight and we shook hands before committing assault.

This week, while we watched cricket and tried to forget soccer, another great British sport descended into shambles. The Rugby Football Union has spent six days locked in mortal combat planning a new season. England had returned from a win-less antipodean tour, humiliated 76-0 by Australia. No professional club made a penny last season, the clubs collectively losing £15 million. First Moseley, then Orrell, then Coventry and now Bristol are in deep trouble. On Thursday Bristol called in receivers. To cap it all, the Rugby Football Union on Sunday sacked its chairman, Cliff Brittle, a long foe of professionalism. Rugby's bosses are like French generals after Verdun. They wander the battlefield counting corpses, blaming each other and muttering that war is not what it was. Rugby union has been professional for two years. The experience has been awful.

This majestic sport is a classic victim of the new British commercialism. In 1995, it was the last big sport to go professional. The move seemed to rectify the Great Schism of 1895, when the Northern Rugby Union broke from the old-school-tiffs of the Southern game and set up the professional Rugby League. The union game clung for a century to its status of a "hooligan's game played by gentlemen" and to its 19th-century rules. Large teams of 15 players roamed the field coated in mud, mauling, gouging and kicking each other in a form of combat sustainable only because the players treated it as "just a game".

By the 1990s, rugby union was following tennis and athletics from amateurism to "shamateurism", to a sort of professionalism. There was gate money, at least from international games, and there was television money. In the Southern Hemisphere, Rupert Murdoch had done for rugby what Kerry Packer had done for cricket. He had used television con-

tracts to break the amateur spell and showed players, or some of them, that they could be rich. And why not? Old hands such as Fran Cotton and Gerald Davies might bewail the dying ethos of the game, its amateur spirit and openness to all walks of life. If a player needed money for a tour, you can put it in his boot. But this was not serious talk for the 1990s. Rugby was a game like any other. The Rugby Football Union took £87.5 million for television rights. With such money at the top and sponsorship at the bottom, the players were entitled to their cut and supporters entitled to decent seats. To compete internationally, the union rugby needed full-time staff and players. Newcastle's chief Sir John Hall, already saviour of his soccer club, insisted that the professional club become the growth point of a new game. He invited Rob Andrew to Newcastle, and put his money where his mouth was.

That is how the modernisers of the New Britain talk, and usually they are right. In 1995 the view was that union rugby had to change. There would be a shake-out, some bankruptcies, crazy scorlines, disappointed players and international defeats. But a restructured game would have the terraces packed, it would see England beating the All Blacks. Give it time.

The past week has tested this thesis to destruction. For once, just for once, the old guard could be right. Money is not talking, but walking. Professionals are not crying all the way to the bank, just crying. Arthur Holmes, the embittered boss of Bristol, said on Thursday that he was "sickened by professionalism". The best players were now a load of mercenaries. They have no loyalty to any club and they are getting far too much... There is no money in professional rugby. Some high-profile tycoons might struggle on, spending millions attracting meagre crowds that would shame a Third Division soccer game. But not for ever.

The ostensible war is between the clubs, desperate for money, and the central Rugby Football Union (RFU) that pockets Twickenham receipts and television rights from internationalists. The RFU replies that the clubs are exhausting the players and not releasing them for summer tours, hence the Australian fiasco. The RFU sees a sport in chronic decline, beaten by more attractive soccer. Rugby is collapsing in schools, and saw a 20 per cent fall in club players over the last year nationwide. The clubs agree, but still cry "give us the money". The Welsh game, where working-class support once underpinned decades of international success, is frantic for help.

A grinner war is on the field. Playing rugby for money, with big "win bonuses", turns a gentlemanly contact game into a human blood sport. Players are now fitter and bigger. Contact speeds and impact weights are phenomenal. To play 90 minutes in a rugby game is like fighting a heavy-weight contest. You end with a body covered in cuts and bruises that should take weeks to heal. A hundred players are currently in wheelchairs with spinal injuries, including the Welsh captain, Gwyn Jones. The touring party to Australia was weakened by the absence of 18 potential players who were unfit to take part after the domestic season. Rugby is by far Britain's most dangerous sport, with twice the accident rate of soccer. Were this not a sport, the Health and Safety Executive would have closed it down years ago. Were it boxing, it would be banned.

The game is proving so arduous that a playing life of up to 15 years as an amateur is falling to ten, even five years. This is not a professional career. Nor do rugby union's relentless forward encounters, constantly stopped for baffling offences, excite spectators. In other words, professionalism is leading union rugby towards the league game, where a century of rule changes has bred a different style, bland, open and

Simon Jenkins

Cowards under fire

Dominick Donald on why no man is defined by one act

Zero Hour. Whistles blow. Muddy men decked out with grenades, wire-cutters, shovels and handlovers of ammunition struggle up trench ladders and start to file through the gaps in their wire. Enemy machine guns track across no-man's land. Men start to fall. And back in the trench line, in full view of the next wave jostling into position, is a soldier who won't move. Perhaps he is a veteran who's just woken up to the fact that all his friends are dead and that now it's his turn, or a replacement for whom bonds of friendship and loyalty aren't enough to get him up that ladder, or someone so shell-shocked his body doesn't do what it's told. But the second wave are now looking nervously at the parapet they'll have to cross, and their commanders sense that even if they go over the top, they'll go to ground at the first opportunity. But the advance must go on.

Many of the 300 men evacuated in the First World War, and denied a blanket pardon yesterday will have been like that soldier. Shell-shock cases such as Harry Farr, whose well of courage had simply run dry; brave veterans such as Joseph Stoney, controversially executed for casting aside his rifle; pathetic creatures such as naval Sub-Lieutenant Dyett, who told everyone who would listen that he wasn't up to the trenches, and was shot when proved right — all stay as guilty in the eyes of the law as the men whose genuine cowardice ensured they went to trial without a witness willing to speak on their behalf. But many more men listed as killed in action must in fact have been executed for the same crimes — summarily shot by their commanders or by the Military Police to immediately encourage *les autres*. Are the men who were tried more guilty than those who weren't?

Tried or not, all of them share something with men we think occupy the opposite end of the moral spectrum. Heroes and cowards alike can be forever measured against the standards of one, isolated act — by both their peers and themselves.

This is particularly true of VCs. The commanders of the garrison at Rorke's Drift never lived up to the reputation they created in those two days in January 1879; quickly promoted, both died before they were 50, in professional backwaters. Duncan Boyes won the VC as a 17-year-old Midshipman. Five years later, thrown out of the Navy for a childish prank, he drank himself to death, the gap between honour and dishonour too wide to bear. For others, it was the contrast between the act and real life which proved too much. Piper Findlater was driven to re-enacting his deeds on music hall stages; James Magennis sold his decorations, only to have locals buy them back for him. Bill Speakman carried the reputation of the hard man who had single-handedly repelled a Chinese attack, supposedly with empty beer bottles, throughout a chequered Army career. Down on his luck on civvy street, hounded by the press, he sold his medals and changed his name, and now lives quietly in South Africa.

The original verdicts cannot now be reconfirmed, says the Defence Minister, John Reid — small comfort for families whose relatives stay guilty. But the men were not more defined by their verdicts than Bill Speakman was by his citation. None of us is the sum of our extremes.

The author, a former soldier, is a member of the Department of War Studies, King's College, London.

School monty

SIXTH formers at a public school have made a Pirelli-style calendar, featuring their most athletic members in outré poses. Twelve pupils from Oundle School posed naked, covering their developing forms with strategically-held props such as dumbbells and baguettes, then sold the calendars to raise money for charity. Among the good sports is Mark Tucker, an England under-18 rug-

by player who scored a try against Scotland (pictured a la half monty and in a more traditional pose). The organiser was Guilhem de Castelbajac, a French pupil, who originally planned "he" and "she" versions. But the girls, overcome with last-minute modesty, pulled out, leaving the lads to honour the school, whose old boys include Al Alvarez, Anthony Holden and the late Sir Hugh Wontner.

A friend from outside was asked to take the snaps. Pupils were offered the calendars for £5 each, £7.50 if signed or £10 should telephone numbers be included. The money was sent to the Dying Room Trust, a charity to help Chinese orphans.

Those who took part were the most self-confident," says one female pupil. "The calendars went down very well in my house. All my friends bought one." The models were all 18 and took the decision to take part because they knew that once the calendar was on sale, they would have left the school and be beyond its reach. David Sharp, Oundle's second master, admitted that school had not had an inkling: "It's an interesting way to raise money for charity. But not one the school would subscribe to."



JUNE 1998



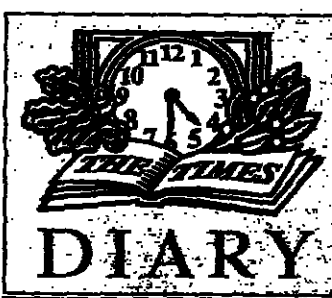
AN EVENING at the opera appears to have clouded Baroness Thatcher's view of her protégé. Glynedebourne records were started to hear the former PM declare: "William is doing fine — until we get Michael back." Not, I assume, Michael Heseltine.

Click clique

AT LAST MPs are to have their own tap-dancing group — but in a controversial move, men are to be excluded. "I have won medals for my tap-dancing," says chief clicker Hans Blears, a Labour MP. "There is a lot of untapped talent. So far I have signed 12 women Labour MPs and I have asked the Sergeant at Arms to provide us with a suitable room. There is a nice dance floor in the Commons gym but there is concern that we might damage it."

"It is important for us to find a date that is convenient with the Whips. It is a good way to keep fit and more fun than a treadmill. We have not invited men but I will not accept criticism for that. It is something we have started as friends."

IT SEEMS the excitement of Notting Hill types at having Hugh Grant and Julia Roberts filming there is waning. "There has been so much filming here that the novelty has worn off," says Roger Mitchell, the director of Notting Hill, the movie. "People quickly get fed up when it's around their homes. Generally they were patient, but one chap shut himself in his house and played the Mozart Requiem very loudly. Julia Roberts offered to



JASPER GERARD

talk to him, but he wouldn't budge." Quite right.

No John, no

ROBIN COOK has sabotaged John Prescott's dreams of striding the

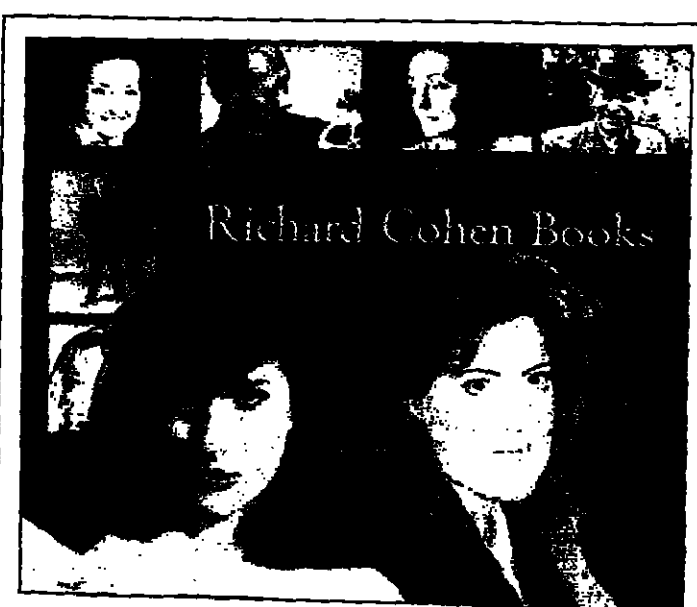


European stage. The Foreign Secretary learnt that Prescott planned to sit on a new EU super-council of deputy PMs, proposed by Jacques Santer. Cook, not one to let strangers stroll on his turf, took aside his Austrian counterparts, who have the EU presidency, and within minutes an obscure council of foreign ministers was revitalised to take all the decisions that Prescott's group would have taken. On your pedalo, John.

TWO houses perched on a cliff top are for sale in Orkney, called Hell and Purgatory. They were so named by a shipwrecked sailor. Near Diary Towers there are two farms, one called Evergood, the other Nevergood. Apparently they were once inhabited by two brothers of very different moral stature. A bottle of Champagne to the reader with the best example of another name double.

Gay day

NEWS to cheer up my flamboyant friends. The Archbishop of Canterbury suspended his suspicion of Latin practices by leading 26 bishops and senior collared sorts into a reception of the Lesbian and Gay Christian Movement at the County Hotel in Canterbury. He had previously refused to meet the group. "We are keen to make him more sensitive to our concerns," says the Rev Richard Kierke, the group's general secretary. "The Archbishop stayed and talked for some time before heading off to see Murder in the Cathedral."



THE final chapter is being written for an award-winning publishing company whose backers include Lord Archer, Sebastian Faulks and Edwina Currie. Richard Cohen Books, a plucky independent which sought to challenge the large publishing houses by signing some popular sorts as Julie Burchill, Sebastian Coe and Anna Pasternak, is running out of time in a desperate bid to raise £500,000. "The situation is critical," confesses Cohen, a former Olympic fencer engaged in his toughest fight. "Should we go into receivership, we will try to keep the company running as a going concern. The backers are determined we avoid going under but all potential investments are gratefully received." Cohen has "fighting" in Cornwall which I unwittingly disturbed. Earlier this month, RCB won the Small Publisher of the Year Award, an achievement Cohen likens to being "knighted on death row". I release, are wondering whether they will have to go elsewhere. For Coe it is a big blow. He was to make his literary debut with a racy little novel set in Westminster, but who will print it now?

FRIDAY JULY 25 1998
Bubbly
1916 wreck
salvaged
in Baltic



THE CRIMINAL WITHIN

The Met must endure a hard ride on Condon's crusade

Police corruption, like political corruption, is persistent and universal. The opportunities for those in power to abuse it have always been sufficiently tempting for even some of the brightest to succumb. The prevalence, and seriousness, of corruption among British officers has never been of the level endured by some continental and American forces. And there had been hopes, after the efforts of Sir Robert Mark in the late Seventies, that the grossest abuses had been rooted out. But the corruption which Sir Paul Condon is tackling now shows every indication of being more shocking, if less widespread, than the scandals of 20 years ago.

Sir Paul, and his senior officers, will need a steady nerve to pursue those who have dishonoured their uniform. It is tempting to suggest that they should have been better at preventing abuses in the past. Those charges will surely be put. The latest revelations, coming after the deficiencies laid bare by the Stephen Lawrence inquiry, raise serious questions and could further undermine public confidence in the police.

The full truth has yet to be seen. The uncovering of corruption, however, has to be the first step in a painful but necessary exorcism. Far from undermining confidence, it has to ensure that it is better based than before. In the months ahead the public may be shocked by what is laid bare: but, as well as the corruption, the courage of Sir Paul in pursuing his criminal colleagues has to be seen. Determination to clean the stables is the first and most vital step on the road to showing that the Metropolitan Police can be worthy of the trust placed in them.

The nature of corruption currently under investigation could hardly be more troubling. In the past, bent coppers were often the passive recipients of bribes paid for turning a blind eye. Now some corrupt officers are believed to be not just acquiescing in, but initiating, large-scale criminal activity. Investigations suggest that police officers were using the skills they acquired in

service to plan, carry out, and cover up extremely serious crimes. The techniques with which they covered their tracks may have led innocent people to be swept into prison. Policemen did not just turn a blind eye to the corrosion of wheels of justice; they hacked through the chains and then cynically placed the offending saw in the hands of the guilty.

The culture of a police force makes the investigation of corruption a fraught enterprise. Considerable ingenuity is needed in the pursuit of the criminals within. The investigation has grown in size, and complexity, as more suspicions have emerged and more officers suspended.

The path ahead is hard. Those under suspicion may try to make the complexity of the investigation their ally. The long, and necessary, delay, after suspension, while evidence is prepared for prosecution, provides a window for the guilty to throw sand in the eyes of justice. The allies of suspended officers may argue that the policemen targeted are victims of a witch-hunt. It will be alleged that they have been sacrificed to affirm the virility of their Commissioner in his fight against a corruption which exists only in his press briefings. Some of these complaints will find ready hearers both among the public — and in station canteens where morale has recently been affected by Sir Paul's efficiency measures.

The cases will be heard in court — and before the bar of public opinion. They will be heard with care. It is important, however, that the suspended officers' colleagues, and the wider public, should be aware of what is at stake — both for the criminally corrupt and those who are pursuing corruption. Trade-union-style benefits of the doubt should not be an option. Sir Paul and his team will have both to cast the net as wide as possible and ensure that it holds. If they are successful, the Metropolitan Police can emerge considerably strengthened: but there are rough waters ahead.

ECONOMIC ROULETTE

The Tories should live as dangerously as the Chancellor

The week ended as it began: with the Government rolling out the red carpet of its largesse. Free entry to Britain's museums was added to the list of munificence that the Government is lavishing on the public. But the week's most significant announcement emanated not from Whitehall but the West Midlands, where Rover is laying off 1,500 workers. High interest rates and the strong pound had made the company uncompetitive, and jobs had to go. Rover's redundancies might seem unrelated to the Government's decision to let the public stroll around the dinosaurs at the Natural History Museum free of charge. Yet the two are linked. The Government's promises mean that interest rates will probably remain at the level they are now: company competitiveness will be further undermined.

The predicament facing companies such as Rover is of the Chancellor's own making. Not only was it he who made the Bank of England independent, set the Bank its targets and delivered lectures on the overriding importance of breaking the "boom bust, stop go cycle": if the Monetary Policy Committee is to follow his instructions, it must now also consider the expansionary effects of the Chancellor's spending plans before it lowers interest rates and tries to ease the suffering of Britain's manufacturing industry.

The Government's argument — that the Comprehensive Spending Review was an act of fiscal responsibility — needs a life-support. Economists and accountants have spent the last week and a half delving into the detail of the Government's figures. Government spending will rise by 2.75 per cent a year — faster than economic growth: one organisation, the National Institute of Economic and Social Research, calculates the increase is closer to three per cent. In

Opposition, Labour said it would pay for its plans by cutting the bills for social failure (such as social security benefits and unemployment). Instead of falling, social security spending will rise: if all major welfare programmes are included, it will increase by £37 billion over the next three years — 3.3 per cent a year above inflation. On top of all this, the Government has shelved its plans to repay the national debt.

The Chancellor should be grateful that the Conservatives have allowed him to hide these unpleasant after-effects of his indulgence. The Opposition response to the Comprehensive Spending Review has been confused and slovenly. Some shadow ministers claimed that Labour will be spending less than Conservatives would have done — implying spending should be higher. Others said that the Government will be spending too much — but refused to say what programmes should be cut. They would be better with one simple message. Yet even simply attacking extra spending will not be enough. Mr Hague should attempt what the Government has so far failed to achieve: to "think the unthinkable" on welfare reform.

Mr Hague might be wary of this line of attack. After all, the economy might not dip into recession. Welfare to work might keep a lid on social security spending. The Government's plans might be cautious after all. We hope so. All things are possible. But a lot has to go right for the Chancellor's gamble to pay off. If the Bank of England believes that the Iron Chancellor has been ousted by the Gambling Chancellor, interest rates will remain where they are. If that happens, although South Kensington's museums might attract new visitors, so will the West Midlands job centres. If Mr Hague is to prosper from Mr Brown's gamble, then he too must learn to live a little dangerously.

IN A GLASS DARKLY

History is a bubble, but champagne may be able to uncork it

Vintage champagne is the grandest of drinks. But a connoisseur might judge 1907 Heidsieck from the Baltic to be past its peak as well as out of the champagne district. As we report today, treasure-hunters have raised the wooden ketch Jonkopung from the bed of the Baltic, where it has lain since it was sunk by a German U-boat in 1916. Its cargo consisted of 5,000 bottles of Heidsieck, and dozens of casks of cognac which it was carrying to the Russian armies in Finland.

Port and claret improve with age. But they should be laid down in the bins and racks of a cellar. Champagne is said to reach its peak after 15 years and thereafter to fade and lose its sparkle. Its bottled sunshine is traditionally a drink for summer on land, not under the wintry sea. After more than 80 years in the Baltic, even the best champagne might be expected to be as flat as a pance and only fit for someone who drinks like a fish.

However, several hundred bottles which have already been raised from the wreck. They stand conventional wine lore on its cork. Not surprisingly, the bottles are covered with slime and their corks are blackened with salt. But they still open with a pop to froth with the authentic artificial paradise. French experts also vouch (less remarkably) for the seaworthiness of the cognac. If they are right and the salvagers

have steady hands, they hope to sell the wines for thousands of pounds a bottle and make themselves millions. The cold, dark depths might have made ideal cellars. And the ripples from waves fathoms overhead would have been the *remuage*, the tilting and turning that form champagne. But in any case these bottles from the past have the nose of all sunken treasure. They splash in the peculiar blend of *Whisky Galore*. And champagne is the most romantic of time capsules. It is the symbol of luxury, effervescence and fleeting pleasure. These pre-revolutionary bubbles were formed in the age when Russian society spoke French and imitated France in style. Their fashionable champagne then was *doux*, sweeter than modern taste. Nobody is left alive who can have adult memories of that famous *douceur de la vie* before the Revolution. Echoes linger in the novels, poetry and photographs. Tsar Alexander II commissioned Roederer Crystal in clear bottles, so that attempts to poison him might be detected. But they got him with a bomb anyway. And the Russians changed from tsars and champagne to commissars and vodka.

The sinking of a wooden ketch in that world was a little tremor in that world earthquake. But 82 years on it has become a romantic lifeline to a vanished world.

Curb on car use is distant aim

From Lord Amwell, CENG, FICE

Sir, It was never likely that the integrated transport White Paper (letters, July 23) would live up to the hype that ministers have given it in recent months: it is, however, disappointing that the Government has not been credited with the vision embodied in the document.

Governments of the last 50 years or so have moved towards a car and lorry-dominated economy, with the wholehearted consent of the electorate, because the car was rightly perceived as providing a great deal of personal freedom. It still does, as Libby Purves's thoughtful article (July 23) demonstrates.

The move away from the car will not have that same consent, but the White Paper provides a framework to begin the process of change. Progress is likely to be made in a series of small measures and experiments, some of which are bound to fail, rather than in major initiatives.

Governments are not generally tolerant of long-term strategies because they are subject to easy criticism. But if we are to succeed in building an integrated and sustainable transport system we have to be in this for the long term.

All credit to the Deputy Prime Minister for starting the process.

Yours faithfully,
AMWELL,
House of Lords,
July 23.

From Professor Emeritus Alan Day

Sir, Simon Jenkins, in his thoughtful attack on the transport White Paper ("Power to the councils", July 22), gets carried away in saying that if you fail to put a price on transport facilities "you soon end up with a 100-lane motorway to Leeds".

I and many other economists have argued for nearly 40 years that road users should pay a price reflecting the marginal costs they impose on society. Now this principle is becoming accepted, but in no way does it justify the Government's conclusion that money paid by private road users should necessarily go to finance public transport. It should be used to provide improved facilities which individual users are willing to pay for. If that implies building new roads then well and good.

Mr Jenkins reflects the fashionable view that it is impossible to satisfy the demand. Traffic growth unconstrained by price would need something like another 3,000-4,000 miles of motorway-standard roads. This may seem like a great deal but road maps of our near neighbours — say the Low Countries or the Paris basin — show that such a solution is perfectly workable even without road pricing.

The Netherlands, with a population density comparable with most of England, has a grid of three north-south and four east-west motorways, about 50 kilometres apart, so that there are very few places more than 25 kilometres from a motorway leading in any direction.

Almost all the evidence suggests that the demand for road transport is unresponsive to higher prices or to the availability of good public transport. The sensible conclusion is that road pricing should be used to measure the "true" demand and to finance a road network not unlike that of our neighbours.

The likely consequence of current policies is the waste of a good deal of money on public transport "improvements" and a continuing increase in funding and frustrated private road traffic.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN DAY,
Chart Place,
Chart Sutton, Kent ME17 3RE.

From Mr David Savers

Sir, Your leading article, "No jam tomorrow" (July 21), is wrong to suggest that the Government's White Paper contains too little on improving public transport, and too much that could penalise drivers.

The cost of travelling by car does not include all the costs that cars impose on society: congestion, air pollution, noise and visual impact, and the value of the countryside lost to roads. A rational transport policy would ensure that the price of car and lorry travel includes all these.

The White Paper does make a start in this direction, with its provision for charges in congested areas; but there is a long way to go before motorists pay all the charges that they should.

Improvements to public transport can have little effect on the mode of transport: the present pattern of housing makes the car much the quickest and most convenient means of travel for all but the longest journeys — or into the most congested cities.

A rational policy would increase charges on car use everywhere, and impose extra charges in congested areas. It would encourage people to live nearer their work, shop nearer home and share journeys to work or school. If the charges were imposed through the tax on fuel they would also encourage people to use more efficient cars.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID SAVERS
(Director of Economics,
Department of Transport, 1976-83),
Crosby, 10 Seaview Avenue,
Angmering-on-Sea, East Preston,
West Sussex BN16 1PP,
July 22.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9KN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Call for review of defence land use

From Sir Chris Bonington,
President of the Council for
National Parks, and others

Sir, In November 1997, leading environmental organisations called for an independent national review of the use of the defence estate and future military training requirements, as a fast-track follow-on from the Strategic Defence Review.

That review was published this month (report, July 8) and we learn that the Ministry of Defence has taken a small but welcome step in that direction.

By proposing open consultation on its future rural estate strategy, the MoD is recognising concerns about the environmental impacts of military training on the countryside. This is welcome because consultation on plans at a strategic level might prevent some of the most damaging proposals coming forward — for example, the major development planned for the Northumberland National Park.

However, to draw up a strategy internally, so that the MoD effectively remains judge and jury on its own case, will not win public confidence. It is 25 years since the independent review of defence lands by Lord Nugent. Military training and its environmental impacts have changed a lot since then. The time is absolutely right for the Government to hold another independent review.

Yours faithfully,
CHRIS BONINGTON,
President, Council for National Parks,
E. COLWYN FOULKES,
Chairman, Campaign for the
Protection of Rural Wales,
NORMA JOHNSTON,
Director, Ramblers' Association,
LES JONES,
Director, WWF-UK,
KATE PARMINTER,
Director, Council for the
Protection of Rural England,
Council for National Parks,
246 Lavender Hill, SW11 1LJ,
July 21.

Debtors and the law

From Mr Michael W. Brown, JP

Sir, The Reverend Paul Nicolson (letter, July 15) appears to be confused about the law on imprisonment for debt. No one who genuinely lacks the means to pay can be penalised for failure to do so, and imprisonment is used only as a last resort for the most recalcitrant of defaulters. The fact that the arrears in the case to which Mr Nicolson refers (of which I know nothing) date back to 1992 must give some indication of the lengths which must have been resorted to before imprisonment was finally imposed.

We do not have imprisonment for debt: what we have is imprisonment for failing to obey the order of the court (as regards payment of a fine, etc.) and in this respect the penalty is no different in kind from custody imposed for driving while disqualified, or for contempt of court, or for any other defiance of a judicial decision.

As ever, the majority abides by the rules: prison is there as the last resort for those who refuse to do so.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL BROWN,
Marrick, 5 Hendon Close,
Highbridge, Somerset TA9 3LB,
July 15.

From Mr Michael Tatham

Sir, It is no doubt true, as Mr Nicolson argues, that wealthy people generally do not go to prison, since they prefer to pay their debts. It is also true, however, that poor people (such as pensioners) do not go to prison because they, too, choose to live within their means and pay their debts. A society

in which only the wealthy were penalised for not paying debts would very shortly cease to be a remotely civilised state.

Poor people with Parkinson's disease, such as the woman cited by Mr Nicolson, would not be receiving treatment or, indeed, any other welfare assistance. Such an outcome might be thought rather more "barbaric" than punishing those men and women — however elderly — who prefer not to honour their obligations.

Yours (as a humble pensioner),
MICHAEL TATHAM,
Hobbes Cottage,
Ravenstone, Olney,
Buckinghamshire MK46 5AN,
July 15.

From the Parliamentary Secretary,
Lord Chancellor's Department

Sir, Mr Nicolson's assertion that "there is no legal aid at committal hearings for debt" is not correct.

Legal aid is available to a person who appears before a magistrates' court for a failure either to pay a fine which he was ordered to pay, or to obey an order of the court, and where such failure is likely to lead to him being at risk of a term of imprisonment.

The court's duty solicitor is able to provide advice and representation on the day of the hearing. Applicants do not have to satisfy a means test for this service.

Yours sincerely,
GEOFF HOON,
Lord Chancellor's Department,
Selborne House,
54-60 Victoria Street, SW1E 6QW,
July 21.

Power title

From Dr D. G. Guild

Sir, Like most Slavists I follow Professor Anthony Cross's usage (letter, July 19) of tsar instead of czar. The latter is seemingly the older and certainly, as in his quote, "a mere corruption of Foreigners".

By a process of elimination the foreigners could well have been Hungarians. Hungarian now uses the almost ubiquitous *cs* for *ts*, but earlier spellings also employed *cz*.

It is likely that *cz* still appears in Hungarian proper names, which tend to be a few to themselves.

Yours faithfully,
D. G. GUILD,
53 Grange Road,
Edinburgh EH9 1TX,
July 18.

Never a lender

From Mrs Allison Walker-Morecroft

Sir, As a child I was not allowed to speak during the wireless broadcast of *The Brains Trust*.

There was very little that I could understand, but I do remember one question: "Would the Brains Trust suggest how I can get back my favourite books from my best friends?" I wish I could remember the answers.

Yours etc,
ALLISON WALKER-MORECROFT,
47 Colman Road,
Norwich, Norfolk NR4 7AN,
July 24.

Country music

From the Campaign Director
of the Countryside Alliance

Sir, Your Diary's suggestion (July 16) that the Countryside Alliance is trying to "rig" the music charts to ensure the success of George Bowyer's single, *Guardians of the Land*, was rather spiteful. We are running a campaign to promote the song among our supporters, who remember it as a moving highlight of last year's 120,000-strong Hyde Park rally, and we want it to go to number one in the charts. That's no secret.

A campaign is not the same thing as rigging. Many charities and interest groups promote records by urging supporters to buy them. Indeed, the Christmas chart has become almost a competition among campaigns.

We have recommended that our members should purchase the record from major chains which are used to survey purchases for the charts, but could not have specified individual

World Cup weather

From the Minister Counsellor
of the Korean Embassy

Sir, Korea's suggestion that the 2002 World Cup finals could be held in September, rather than June and July (report, Sport, July 23), was made to ensure the success of this world premier sports event, not to seek a way out of hosting it.

Korea, as one of two host countries, has an obligation to raise the prospect of any obstacle to guarantee a successful opening of this international event. If weather conditions are expected to affect the finals, it is natural for the host country to warn the football countries and FIFA so that appropriate preparations can be made on time. This is the reason why Mr Chung Moong-joon, head of the Korean Football Association, has raised the issue.

Korea is not "using the weather as an excuse to withdraw from co-hosting the tournament". The Government and people are fully confident in their ability to host this event.

Mr Chung's comment on weather, I believe, is firmly based on the sincere wishes of the Korean people to make the 2002 World Cup successful, as they did the Seoul Olympic Games held in September 1988.

Yours faithfully,
SUNGSOO PARK,
Minister Counsellor,
Embassy of the Republic of Korea,
60 Buckingham Gate,
London SW1E 6AJ,
July 23.

Competition key to musical success

From Mr Michael F. Sullivan

Sir, Having sat through hours of musical competitions and usually disagreed with the verdict, I never expected to write in defence of the genre as a whole, and I agree with Barry Douglas's contention ("Careers that begin in the wrong key", July 20) that they can encourage conformity rather than individuality.

However, in an age when the electronic media are in danger of taking over from the live performance, a competition fulfils the vital role of making a performer play in public and giving the audience a chance to experience the result at first hand. Anyone who heard pianists like Horowitz or Richter in live concerts will testify that the recording or video cannot do justice to the live performance, coughs, wrong notes and all.

Competitions are tough, often unfair, or even cruel. So is a performing career. Competitors require great courage, ability and luck. So do performing musicians. Competitions provide excitement, generate interest and provide young hopefuls with a public platform. Sometimes the best competitor even wins.

Most competition winners, like those at Santander, have a schedule of concert engagements that go with the prize. Let us hope Freddie Kempff has another go at the Moscow competition. He is young enough. But he may join the select few who have built brilliant careers by not winning a competition. Perhaps that is another argument in favour of them.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL SULLIVAN
(British Cultural Attaché,
Moscow, 1981-85),
Harvestehuder Weg 8a,
D-20148 Hamburg,
July 22.

From Mr Tony Pristavec

Sir, I am glad that Barry Douglas generally agrees with the pioneering approach introduced in 1986 by the London-based World Piano Competition. This recognised the fact that all too often prizewinners were left to fend for themselves and that the immediate benefits of winning a prize were soon outdated. We were the first international piano competition to introduce scholarship awards, as later adopted in Santander.

Our first batch of scholarships in 1991 included an award to Leon McCawley, who was to achieve second prize in Leeds and first prize in Vienna, both in 1993. Alessio Bax, who received an award in 1994, went on to win first prize in Hamamatsu in 1997.

Mr Douglas need not have looked as far as Spain for his example. Our experience suggests that we, too, have found the right key.

Yours etc,
TONY PRISTAVEC
(Event Co-ordinator),
World Piano Competition,
28 Wallace Road, NI 2PG,
July 23.

Lord Smith

From the President of
the Medical Art Society

Sir, One interesting aspect of the illustrious and colourful career of Rodney Smith was not touched on in your obituary (July 22).

Following his disastrous stroke in 1981, he took up painting, presumably partly as therapy and partly as a new outlet for his innate talents. He joined the Medical Art Society in 1986, and exhibited regularly thereafter, at its annual exhibition. In fact, one could monitor his remarkable progress, as well as striving for perfection, with the obvious increase in skill and quality of his work year on year.

Two of his pictures now hang in the Royal College of Surgeons, and one in the Royal Society of Medicine.

Yours sincerely,
VICTOR DUBOWITZ,
President, Medical Art Society,
Royal Society of Medicine,
1 Wimpole Street, W1M 8AE,
July 23.

Oxford blues

From Mr Edward W. Mitchell

Sir, In the interview with Jarvis Cocker (July 17), he says he's glad he never went to Oxford. The frequency of this sentiment amongst those who tried to get in but failed is, quite frankly, no real source of wonder.

Yours etc,
ED MITCHELL
(Undergraduate, Pembroke College,
Oxford, 1991-95),
Trinity Hall, Cambridge CB2 1TJ,
ewm21@hermes.cam.ac.uk

Driving instructions

From Mr J. E. Hok

Sir, I was amused to read Mary Quant's concluding directions to reach her home (article, "A daisy chain reaction", Weekend, July 18): "There may be diversion signs. Pay no attention."

My elderly cousin ends her instructions: "Eventually you will come to a T-junction. Cross over."

Yours faithfully,
JONNIE HOK,
Middle Old Park,
Near Farnham, Surrey GU10 5EA,
July 18.

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

OBITUARIES

PROFESSOR JAMES GORDON

James Edward Gordon, engineer and author, died in Oxford on June 26 aged 84. He was born in Kendal on August 9, 1913.

Through his involvement in so much of its evolution Jim Gordon is recognised by many as one of the founders of materials science, but he will be remembered most for two books of outstanding literary quality. Much more than mere textbooks, these were at once entertaining and informative, providing absorbing interest for both expert and student. His writing drew on experience as a naval architect, aeronautical engineer, materials scientist, classical scholar, sailor and garden designer. He was also a great motivator, attracting talent and inspiring those who worked with him.

His first love was sailing, which led him to study naval architecture at Glasgow University while working with sailing boats whenever he could. But the start of the Second World War led him to change tack and take up a post at the Royal Aircraft Establishment at Farnborough. There he explored alternative materials for use in aircraft structures. The intensive period of activity which then followed was to lead to the development of high performance composite materials, and the definition of basic procedures for the design of composite structures, long before materials science became academically respectable.

One wartime success was the seat for the Spitfire, an early aerospace application for composites. Gordon also designed inflatable sailing boats for the Royal Air Force, which he tested in the cold North Sea. But he maintained that his most fascinating wartime experience came when he interviewed his German counterpart, who had been faced with all the same problems and in many instances had adopted similar solutions.

After the war, Gordon continued his pioneering work on



Gordon: literary quality made his books far more than science textbooks

new materials, first at Farnborough, then with Tube Investments at Hinxton Hall near Cambridge, before moving back under the wing of Air Ministry funding at the Explosives Research and Development Establishment at Waltham Abbey. It is a credit to his leadership and loyalty that during these moves he was able to keep key members of his team together. One outstanding achievement in the immediate postwar period was the moulding of a complete composite wing for a military aircraft. But this was never allowed to fly, and was not repeated until decades later, in America.

The line of composite development pursued at Waltham Abbey involved a quest for fibres with high stiffness to weight ratios. The search led to the building of a pilot manufacturing and processing plant for silicon carbide whisker crystals. Though successful, this proved too costly, but it was during this period that Gordon and his colleagues developed the ideas basic to the combining of strong but brittle materials so as to produce composites tough enough to use in engineering. At the same time, Gordon played a little-known but significant role in inspiring former colleagues at Farnborough in the development of carbon fibres.

Towards the end of the 1960s he decided to put some of his life's work on the record, and wrote his first book, *The New Science of Strong Materials or Why You Don't Fall Through the Floor*. This book, and the sequel on *The Structures in Your Life*, earned international acclaim. *Strong Materials* became a text book for a variety of university courses, it became a school text not only for physics but also for English literature, and to Gordon's great delight was required reading in the military academies of both the USA and Russia. Ultimately *Strong Materials* was translated into some 20 languages. It remains in print after 30

years, despite its specialised subject.

He wrote meticulously, reworking his drafts over and over to achieve the desired effect — a process he thought about 5 per cent efficient. He believed that he could avoid the fatal flaw of most technical books, dullness, which was for him an inexcusable sin. His aim was to put technology in a human context, and write in a way that could be interpreted on several different levels. His heroes in this were Kipling and A. A. Milne.

In 1968 accepted the offer of the chair of materials technology at Reading, and he and his wife settled into a house just below the Blewbury Downs, where friends were entertained with overwhelming generosity. But for all his kindness to friends and colleagues, Jim Gordon could be stubborn and would stick tenaciously to an argument. He had a stock of introductory phrases which all his close associates recognised as warning signs. These included "You know a lot more about this than I do", "You may well be right" and "most damning of all, "Well, you know best". These preliminaries were sometimes used to devastating effect on pompous visitors, while colleagues sardonically cheered from the sidelines. At Reading Gordon was to consolidate his ideas on the way nature has evolved sophisticated solutions to a wide range of structural materials problems. He and his multidisciplinary team were fascinated by the analysis of the toughening mechanism of wood, the bursting of blood vessels and numerous other phenomena. Gordon more or less invented the subject now called biomimetics, in which engineers and scientists strive to understand and then mimic structures in natural materials. He also collaborated with classicists and ancient historians to show how historical events could be explained and understood by analysis of the relevant technology.

He is survived by his wife Theo and by their son.

MONICA DANCE



Monica Dance: portrait by David Hankinson

Monica Dance, OBE, conservationist, died on July 22 aged 84. She was born on November 24, 1913.

Civilisation's sure retreat Is fifty-five Great Ormond Street

It is from there the troops advance Under the flag of Mrs Dance. Let four developers beware. She looks at them with glassy stare

And though she makes them freeze with fright She manages to be polite.

SIR John Betjeman wrote this "impromptu of affection" to Monica Dance in 1978, when she retired as secretary of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings after nearly 50 years' unstinting work. Without any doubt Monica Dance was the best known figure in the building conservation world for much of the postwar period. Thousands of historic buildings stand today, or have avoided catastrophic alteration, solely because of her determination to prevent their loss.

Her most lasting impact, however, has been in the training of hundreds of young architects and others in SPAB principles of conservative repair, many of whom now care for the most important buildings in the land. Raban Court, a timber-framed building in Baldoak, Hertfordshire, is a memorial to Monica Dance's patience, diplomacy, tenacity and refusal to accept defeat. Between 1938 and 1960 she wrote 281 letters on this one case before the battle to prevent its demolition was won.

Few could refuse a request from Monica Dance. Her ability to motivate people was her greatest skill. With her unique combination of a genuine personal interest in people and an unquestioned forcefulness of character, she was able to persuade even eminent architects to drop everything at a moment's notice either to report on a threatened building or to appear at a public inquiry (often at the other end of the country). Her sense of geography was notoriously weak. It was not unknown for her to ask someone to look at a building at risk in Norwich while on the way from London to Plymouth.

Born Winifred Monica Soppitt in Barnsley, her first job in 1931 was as secretary to the architect, John McGregor and A. R. Powys. Both were intimately involved with the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings and she was soon on the society's staff. Powys was secretary at the time and after his sudden death in 1936, Monica Dance became increasingly important in the society's administration. When

the Second World War broke out, she resigned but was soon back again. With John McGregor she became acting secretary both of the SPAB and its offspring, the Georgian Group, at a crucial time for historic buildings.

During the war she married Harry Dance, who from then on found his life taken over by his wife's obsession. Wholly characteristically, she was working on SPAB business even on her wedding day. Until their retirement they lived on the premises at the SPAB offices in Great Ormond Street, which enabled her to carry on writing letters into the early hours.

Once the war was over and she had been confirmed in her secretary's post, Dance turned her energies to the great problems of the postwar period — the widespread decay and demolition of buildings and the growing threats from urban redevelopment and traffic schemes. In 1955 the society started compiling lists of buildings at risk of demolition. Many houses such as Somerset Lodge, Pentworth; Heath House, Leintwardine; and Morley Old Hall, Norfolk, were rescued this way.

In 1930 the society had set up a six-month scholarship scheme for young architects, teaching them the practical repair of old buildings. War interrupted the scheme, which by then was funded by Beatrix Potter. In 1950 it was revived, and one of the first of the new scholars was Donald Insall, whose practice played a major

role in the recent repair of Windsor Castle. Numerous ancient manor houses, castles, churches, cathedrals and great country houses are now cared for by former SPAB scholars.

Without children of her own, Monica Dance treated each successive year's scholars as part of an extended family. In 1983 they all gathered together to set up the Dance Scholarship Trust to raise money for future scholarships.

In addition to her work for the SPAB, Dance was honorary secretary of the semi-autonomous Wind and Watermill Section; helped in the founding of both the Georgian Group and the Victorian Society (John Betjeman originally joined the SPAB Committee to help with the mounting number of Victorian cases).

From 1965 to 1975 she was first honorary secretary of the British branch of the International Council on Monuments and Sites. When time allowed she also undertook the repair of several historic buildings on her own behalf, including latterly her own home — the Old Vicarage in Methwold, Norfolk. She was appointed MBE in 1957 and advanced to OBE in 1979.

During her long years at SPAB she worked with only two chairmen. Lord Escher followed by the Duke of Grafton, whom as a young man she helped to initiate into the world of conservation.

She is survived by her husband.

THE RIGHT REV HOWELL WITT

The Right Rev Howell Witt, Bishop of North West Australia, 1965-81, and of Bathurst, 1981-89, died on July 14 aged 78. He was born on July 12, 1920.



Witt: Welsh clergyman who was a great hit in Australia

HOWELL WITT rose from the humble origins of a dockworker's home at Newport in Monmouthshire to occupy a Bishop's Palace — even if it was at first no more than a converted boarding house in the remote Western Australian town of Geraldton. Boundless energy and complete lack of pretension were the essence of the niggly, bright and breezy Welshman who became famous throughout Australia as "the Bishop of the Bush" during his 16 years as Bishop of North West Australia.

The tight little world of his home town could hardly have provided a stronger contrast to the vast spaces of his see, which covered 720,000 square miles, or a quarter of the continent. But after initial uncertainty as to his suitability for high office, Witt was never overawed. He learnt to fly to make best use of the seven

months of his year spent visiting outposts which often comprised only a handful of parishioners, but still given the same dedicated attention and inspirational message from

this most extrovert but committed of Christians. Howell Arthur John Witt was born to a Methodist family. As a boy he was inspired by the Gospels and, after gaining

an arts degree at Leeds University, he was ordained in May 1945. He spent four years as assistant curate in the Welsh village of Usk where he met his future wife, Doreen Edwards. He next moved to the greater challenge of the busy parish of St George's, Camberwell, in South London, although he found time to play rugby with London Welsh.

Four years later he was named first chaplain of the new Woomera Rocket Range, north of Adelaide, at the dawn of the rocket and nuclear era when British experiments saw thousands of workers sent out to this barren setting. There was no church — the chaplain held his first service in a room normally used by the local barber. His luggage had not arrived, so he improvised with a bottle of port, a slice of bread, a pewter beer mug as a chalice, and a cheese dish as paten, plus a sheet as the altar cloth and blankets as kneelers.

Later improvisation and impish humour were put to effective use — not least when he opened the Woomera fete as "Deborah, Duchess of Dingo

Creek", garbed in spread skirt, tiara and padding. This was such a success that the dowager was later invited to open the fete at St Peter's College, Adelaide. Woomera either made or ruined me. I spent five years there without a church, wandering to my heart's content. After this I didn't fit into the normal parochial pattern". Witt was to recall later: "I nearly died when I worked for three years in an Adelaide Church. This was a reference to St Mary Magdalene, a mission church sponsored by St Peter's College.

In 1957 he volunteered for the post of priest-in-charge at the new satellite town of Elizabeth, populated largely by British migrants. Howell Witt understood their problems, and hurled himself into the task of establishing a church that at first had no premises, with services held in houses and borrowed halls. The new clergyman's enormous energy inspired his parishioners, and the church was to become a focal point for the growing satellite town.

Witt possessed the traditional Welsh love of singing, and his resonant voice would inspire quiet congregations into thundering out hymns, notably his favorite, *Cwm Rhodda*. Staid Anglicans accustomed to listening straight-faced to restrained expositions of the Gospels would find themselves convulsed with laughter as anecdote and illustration followed in quick succession. It was an imaginative move by the Church to elect the 45-year-old Welshman as Bishop of North West Australia in 1965; and he displayed a much-appreciated readiness to make himself at home. He tried his hand at baiting crayfish pots and chasing wild goats.

Hardbitten locals with little time for conventional clergy found they could talk easily to this character who seemed so much like themselves.

He wrote regular newspaper columns which reached well beyond church members. In 1980 he published an autobiography, *Bush Bishop*. Witt became Bishop of Bathurst in New South Wales in 1981, but in 1985 he was involved in a car crash and was forced to retire in 1989.

His later years in a retirement village in Perth saw him still busy preaching, and at his death he was writing a Mills & Boon-style romantic novel. His son David Witt dubs his father just as well as well it was unfinished: "I don't think the world is ready yet for a Mills & Boon consecrated ripper".

Howell Witt's wife Doreen died in 1983. He is survived by three sons and two daughters.

JIMMY DRIFTWOOD

Jimmy Driftwood, folksinger, died on July 12 aged 91. He was born on June 20, 1907.



Jimmy Driftwood at the Arkansas folk festival in 1964

KNOWN as the Bard of the Ozarks, Jimmy Driftwood said that he "wanted to encourage the preservation of the folk music that had survived so long in our hills". With considerable drive, plausibility and publicity, he succeeded in giving Arkansas a whole new series of good-time tunes and traditions.

James Corbett Morris, as he was originally named, was born in Mountain View in northern Arkansas, the son of a folksinger. His grandfather made him his first guitar from a fencing rail and a headboard, and soon learnt to play the fiddle, banjo and mouth-bow (similar to a Jew's harp). From his musical family and neighbours he naturally absorbed the folk culture and folk music that he was to later project to the world.

In his thirties he worked as a teacher in a backwoods high school, singing in the evenings and holidays, touring folk festivals and performing his own songs.

As part of the conscious attempt to retrieve or else invent America's folk history, he was invited to compile an album of newly "discovered" early American folk songs — on which he cheekily included his own best-known composition, *The Battle of New Orleans*.

He later said that had written this song about the ill-fated British attack of 1815, the last gasp of the war of 1812, to help his students to remember that the battle was not part of the Revolutionary War. With its patriotic sentiment, it appealed to America's legend of itself, and Driftwood had a modest hit. But it was left to Johnny Horton to bring out the song's popular potential. He recorded it in 1959 and sold a million. In the 1980s the song was still one of America's all-time favourites. In Britain it was covered by the skiffle-

player Lonnie Donegan — who emulated the British defeat and reached No 2 in the hit parade.

Boosted by this success and by Eddy Arnold's hit with his song *The Tennessee Stud*, Morris adopted his arch name, sang at the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville and, with songs such as *Down in the Arkansas* and *He Had a Long Chain On*, became increasingly popular among people with checkered shirts and broad brims.

He won several Grammy awards and was given an honorary doctorate in folklore by Peabody University.

Driftwood became passionate about preserving the folklore, storytelling and natural environment with which he had grown up. During the 1960s he was part of the successful campaign to prevent the damming of the Buffalo River. It was subsequently declared a National River, to be preserved for its beauty.

In the 1970s Driftwood founded the Rackensack Folklore Society, bringing together "people who remembered"

such as the ballad-singer Aunt Ollie Gilbert and the banjo-player Bookmiller Shannon to play with him. He also won \$3.4 million of state funding to set up the Ozark Folk Center, where an annual jamboree is held.

A number of albums such as *Billy Yank* and *Johnny Reb* appeared, but recording companies could not keep up with Driftwood's output. Some 300 of his songs have been published or recorded, but he is said to have written 50 times that number.

These songs, and those that he had grown up with, became the core of his twice-weekly folk music performances at the Jimmy Driftwood Barn and Folklore Hall of Fame in Mountain View. Here and at his ranch at Timbo, a few miles away, Driftwood and his wife Cleda entertained hundreds of visitors and enthusiasts. In due course the barn was passed as a going concern to the University of Central Arkansas.

Jimmy Driftwood is survived by his wife. He was predeceased by three sons.

MILESTONES



Sir James Lighthill, mathematician, died while swimming on July 17 aged 74. He was born on January 23, 1924.

One of the great mathematicians of the century and a pioneer in fluid mechanics, James Lighthill applied his mind to practical subjects ranging from the circulation of the blood to the noise produced by jet engines. He was a Cambridge scholar at 15 and a professor at 26. In his thirties, as Director of the Royal Aircraft Establishment, he was a leading researcher into supersonic and space flight, and the potential of satellites. He then became Lucasian Professor of Mathematics at Cambridge before moving as Provost to University College London, where he developed the biology and biotechnology departments. *Obituary published on July 20.*



Hans Feibusch, muralist and sculptor, died on July 18 aged 99. He was born on August 15, 1899.

Welcomed by the London Group almost as soon as he came to England from Nazi Germany, the young artist Hans Feibusch soon established himself with his murals in churches. George Bell, the Bishop of Chichester, commissioned work and introduced him to other churches. He also worked in domestic and civic settings. His art was particularly appreciated by architects for its sensitivity to settings. His religious paintings exhibit brilliant colour and a composition which is generally suave and classical. He was a man who valued passion in religion. The impairment of his eyesight in 1970 caused him to turn to sculpture. *Obituary published on July 21.*

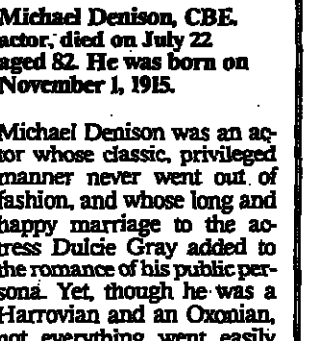


Lord Smith, KBE, President of the Royal College of Surgeons, 1973-77, died on July 1 aged 84. He was born on May 10, 1914.



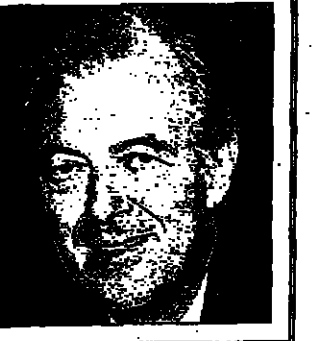
Michael Denison was an actor, died on July 22 aged 82. He was born on November 1, 1915.

After a brilliant student career at St Thomas' Medical School, Rodney Smith set out to be the best practitioner of biliary and pancreatic surgery. With numerous articles and honours to his name, he was twice a Hunterian Professor of the Royal College of Surgeons before revitalising its Institute of Basic Medical Sciences. He resisted attacks on the profession from unions and government, and as chairman of the Conference of Medical Royal Colleges, he led the committee which determined the criteria for brain death. He also played bridge for the House of Lords. *Obituary published on July 22.*



Michael Denison was an actor, died on July 22 aged 82. He was born on November 1, 1915.

Michael Denison was an actor whose classic, privileged manner never went out of fashion, and whose long and happy marriage to the actress Dulcie Gray added to the romance of his public persona. Yet, though he was a Harrovian and an Oxonian, not everything went easily for him. War tore him from the theatre at 24, and he felt he missed his grounding in Shakespeare. His wife, however, became a popular film actress, and helped to get him film parts. *The Glass Mountain* brought wide acclaim. He then worked in the serious theatre and in films, before achieving his greatest fame in the title role of *Boyd, QC*, on ITV. *Obituary published on July 23.*



Michael Denison was an actor, died on July 22 aged 82. He was born on November 1, 1915.

Equities end week on flat note

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

Table of equity prices categorized by sector: ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, BANKS, BREWERIES, PUBS & REST, DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS, ELECTRICITY, BUILDING MATERIALS, ELECTRONIC & ELECT, CHEMICALS, CONSTRUCTION, DISTRIBUTORS, FOOD MANUFACTURERS, HEALTHCARE, HOUSEHOLD GOODS & TEXT, INSURANCE, LEISURE & HOTELS, MEDIA, MINING, OIL & GAS, PHARMACEUTICALS, PRINTING & PAPER, PROPERTY, RETAILERS FOOD, RETAILERS GENERAL, SUPPORT SERVICES, TELECOMMUNICATIONS, TRANSPORT, WATER, and ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET.

Main table of equity prices with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, and % Change. Includes a 'BRITISH FUNDS' section with sub-sections for SHORTS (under 5 years), LONGS (over 15 years), UNDATED, and MEDIUMS (\$ to 15 years).

Table of equity prices categorized by sector: OTHER FINANCIAL, PHARMACEUTICALS, PRINTING & PAPER, PROPERTY, TELECOMMUNICATIONS, TRANSPORT, WATER, and ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET.

Advertisement for Planet Microsoft. Text: 'Selling your products on the Internet yet? Your competitors may be. COMPAG Planet Microsoft. Visit our Advanced Technology Demonstration Centres in Bishopsgate, London & Central Leeds. Freephone: 0500 550 650. E-mail: info@theplanet.net www.theplanet.net. Internet Solutions for Business from the UK's Largest Independent Service Provider.'

Large advertisement for Asherc Vickers sells Riva for £4m. Includes a large image of a woman's face and the text 'Asherc Vickers sells Riva for £4m' and 'Moss Bros Armani d'.

مركز الامن



PROFILE 26

Living a high life with the President's men

BUSINESS

WEEKEND MONEY SECTION 2

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

SATURDAY JULY 25 1998

Ashcroft returns at helm of acquisitive vehicle



Ashcroft made £150 million from ADT sale

By Rachel Bridge

MICHAEL ASHCROFT, one of the City's most controversial figures, bounced back into the spotlight yesterday with the formation of an ambitious new acquisition vehicle from the stock market listed shell, Carlisle.

In a highly complex deal which brings together a string of well-known names from the Eighties, the former chairman of ADT is welding together Carlisle Group, a fledgling property developer headed by Nigel Wray, the City entrepreneur, Capitol, a security and investigative group, and Recruit, an employment agency in which Tony Berry, the former Blue Arrow chairman, has a 4 per cent stake. Richard Fenhalls, the former chief execu-

tive of Henry Ansbacher, the merchant bank, is also involved in the new company. He is a director of Carlisle and a director of Strand Partners, the company advising the newly formed group, in which Mr Ashcroft has an indirect equity interest and which is a shareholder in Capitol.

It is understood, however, that Mr Berry will not be involved in the day-to-day running of the new business and that there is a formula in place to enable him to cash in his holding. Mr Wray is expected to remain as a director of the new company.

Mr Ashcroft, who last year collected £150 million from the sale of ADT to Tyro, the US group, and who is currently deputy treasurer of the Conservative Party, will inject £35

million into the new company by subscribing for shares in a proposed £50 million rights issue, giving him and his associates more than 75 per cent of the new company's share capital. Existing Carlisle shareholders will be offered the choice of one new Carlisle share or 10.57p in cash for each share they already own.

The directors of Carlisle said yesterday that the new group, which will be headed up by Ashcroft as chairman, intended to pursue an aggressive acquisition strategy and in discussions with Mr Ashcroft had identified considerable opportunities for consolidation of the services sector in the UK, Ireland and continental Europe. Carlisle said yesterday: "It is Mr

Ashcroft's intention to create a substantial services group which will be capable of acting as a vehicle for such acquisition. The new group will adopt an integrated, 'one-stop' approach to the provision of services and will be committed to a strategy of aggressive growth through acquisition."

The directors of Carlisle admitted that they had spent the past two years seeking opportunities to reposition Carlisle through the substantial acquisition of a profitable business with growth potential, but for a variety of reasons had not succeeded.

As part of the deal Carlisle is also acquiring LI Group, a specialist provider of contract cleaning services and support services to the UK retail sector.

BUSINESS TODAY

Table with financial data including FTSE 100, FTSE All share, Dow Jones, S&P Composite, Federal Funds, Long Bond, 3-mth Interbank, Life long gilt, New York, London, DM, Yen, \$ Index, Tokyo close, Brent 15-day, London close.

Vickers sells Riva for £4m

By Adam Jones

ONE of the grandest names in motor yachting - the choice of Brigitte Bardot, Sean Connery and numerous sheikhs - has been sold by Vickers, the engineer that recently disposed of Rolls-Royce Motor Cars.

Vickers has sold Cantieri Riva, based on Lake Iseo in northern Italy, to Stellican, a London investment company headed by Stephen Julius.

It is understood that Vickers is getting about £4 million for the company, which it bought control of for £9.1 million in 1990. Industry sources said they are baffled why Vickers ever got involved in the first place.

Vickers had aimed to establish Riva, founded in 1842, as a sister company to Rolls-Royce Motor Cars but there was never any cross-selling. Vickers refused to reveal the full extent of the loss on disposal, nor Riva's most recent sales figures.

Riva motor yachts generally sell for between £1 million and £2 million. Stellican was behind the purchase of Vicenza, the Italian football club, but it eventually fell out with Joe Lewis, the Bahamas-based investor who took a stake in Vicenza through the English National Investment Company, over an abortive flotation.

Mr Julius, who is half Italian, yesterday said that Riva is a "pearl of a brand" and Stellican will look at ways of using the name on clothing and accessories. It may also buy other boat companies.

Tempus, page 27

Enron makes big splash with Wessex Water bid

By Christine Buckley, Industrial Correspondent

ENRON, the US power group, has launched itself into the international water business with a £1.36 billion agreed cash bid for Wessex Water. The surprise move set off a flurry of activity in water shares as expectations rose that other energy businesses would follow Enron's lead.

Enron, a key player in gas and electricity, wants to propel itself into the worldwide water market using Wessex's managerial skills.

Kenneth Lay, Enron chairman and chief executive, said

water "can very quickly become as big as our gas and electricity businesses are today". The US company, which has been a vocal critic of the Government's moratorium on gas-fired power stations, denied it was targeting Wessex because of its other expansion plans in the UK were blocked.

Ralph Hodge, chairman of Enron UK, said the £1.36 billion, which values Wessex at 630p a share against yesterday's closing price of 493p, was "additional and complementary" to its UK aspirations in gas. Enron is still positioning for the moratorium to be lifted.

The agreed bid will effectively give Nick Hood, Wessex chairman, a free rein in devel-

oping the international business under Rebecca Mark, Enron's head of international business.

Mr Hood will be helped by Colin Skellet, Wessex's chief executive, while the rest of the directors of Wessex will stay in place. Enron said it wanted Wessex to be the "flagship" of its international business. Mr Hood said the business aimed to be "a world leader".

He said the operation already had targets in mind. Europe, Latin America and Asia are likely to be the most likely areas for acquisitions.

Shares of other water companies raced ahead as the market hoped that other large US groups would make bids.

Anglian Water jumped 51p to 920p, Yorkshire rose 46p to 548p and Hyder was up 45p to 1040p. Wessex rose 118p to 611p.

However, some analysts were puzzled by Enron's timing because the bid comes ahead of a regulatory pricing review that will demand a big one-off reduction in water bills.

The deal between Enron and Wessex took fewer than ten days to tie up. Both companies said they had separately been pursuing the same objective for international expansion. The World Bank says that the worldwide water market will be worth \$400 billion (£24 billion) by the millennium and investment will run at \$70

billion a year. Currently the market is worth \$300 billion.

Because Enron has no water interests in the UK the bid is not expected to face regulatory difficulties, although the regulator may seek price reductions before blessing the deal. Water prices in the North East are set to rise by £5.0 a year as Ian Byatt, the regulator, prepares to grant Northumbrian Water permission to break price promises made by Lyonnaisse des Eaux when the French company took it over three years ago. Northumbrian asked Mr Byatt to let it impose higher prices to fund environmental work.

Tempus, page 23

Disney trip was business expense

By Paul Durman

THE vast majority of the £200,000 of benefits paid to the ousted chairman of Cortecs were not disclosed in the company's annual report because they were classified as legitimate business expenses.

Glen Travers is suing the drug development company for £1.5 million including his entitlement to £33,000 of overseas accommodation, £34,500 of flights home to Australia for his family and the £42,400 cost of his membership of the Young Presidents Organisation for business high fliers. Yet last year's annual report showed Mr Travers received benefits of only £31,000.

Most of Cortecs' directors, now headed by Lord Patten, are said to be stunned at Mr Travers's expenses including a trip to EuroDisney.

Mr Travers insists his remuneration package is fundamentally unchanged since it was drawn up in 1992 after negotiations involving Herve Couffin, then the board representative of Paribas, a 10 per cent shareholder who backed Mr Travers's removal last month.

Leon Ivory, head of the firm's remuneration committee, has defended the pay package.

Cortecs is also concerned about the bonus payments Mr Travers received. One £50,000 payment was triggered by an apparently minor university collaboration. Mr Travers said he was given no opportunity to explain his pay and spending. He is "devastated" that Michael Flynn, Cortecs' chief scientific officer, has turned against him.

President's men, page 26



Thirst for expansion: Kenneth Lay, Enron's chairman and chief executive, left, with his vice-chairman Rebecca Mark and Wessex Water's Nick Hood

Moss Bros sues over Armani distribution

By Sarah Cunningham, Retail Correspondent

MOSS BROS, the menswear retail group, is suing the Giorgio Armani fashion house and its UK distributor, which is part of the empire of Singapore millionaire Christina Ong, for allegedly breaking European law on selective distribution.

Rowland Gee, managing director of Moss Bros, claimed that Mrs Ong's company, Club 21, was trying to stop Moss Bros and other independent retailers from selling Armani clothes. The dispute arose when

Mrs Ong, who also holds the licence for other fashion labels, opened a Giorgio Armani shop selling the Le Collezioni range on London's Bond Street, close to a branch of Moss Bros' Beale & Inman menswear shop, which also sells Le Collezioni suits.

Club 21 then introduced a rule that certain Le Collezioni retailers must also carry the Mani women's wear range. Mr Gee said that it would obviously be impossible for menswear retailers to comply and that the new rule was only

being imposed on shops that might compete with Mrs Ong's own Armani stores.

Mr Gee said that so far he has still been receiving supplies of Le Collezioni suits, and wants to ensure that he is able to carry on doing so. He said that similar situations involving other independent retailers of Armani clothes have arisen in Glasgow and Manchester and he wants to fight the matter "on principle".

A spokeswoman for Mrs Ong said that Club 21 had no comment to make.

Choice FM sold for £6m

By Chris Ayres

CHRYSLIS, the media group headed by Chris Wright, yesterday bought Birmingham's Choice FM, the soul and dance music station, for £6 million.

The station's main founders, Patrick Berry, 47, and Neil Kenlock, 48, will receive nearly £1 million each if the sale is passed by the regulators. They set up Choice in 1984, having previously produced Root an Afro-Caribbean magazine.

Choice, which made a small profit on sales of about £600,000 last year, is expected to be rebranded as Galaxy.

PDFM bears win parent's approval

By Graham Searjeant

UNITED Bank of Switzerland yesterday gave a vote of confidence to the bearish investment strategy of its London fund management business, Phillips & Drew, and signalled that it is unlikely to sell the business in the near future.

Instead, the newly merged banking group has shaken up P&D's own management.

Crispian Collins, who joined Phillips & Drew in 1969, succeeds Paul Meredith as chief executive from September. Mr Meredith remains as chairman. Robin Apps moves up to be managing director of invest-

ment and client teams. But Tony Dye, architect of P&D's cautious investment strategy, remains as chief investment officer. The firm's autonomy within the UBS Brinson institutional asset management division is also confirmed.

P&D manages about £60 billion, mainly in pension funds, but its UK investment performance has suffered from Mr Dye's conviction that shares are overvalued and that markets will at some point crash.

Commentary, page 25

A WEEK IN THE CITY

In a week that has raised fears of recession and widespread redundancies in industry, the battle against the carpetbagger has proved a rare source of light relief. Threatened with conversion, the Nationwide board started the week declaring that if they could see off the challenge of would-be directors Michael Hardern and Andrew Muir, the future of the society would be secured.

As events progressed, and the board heaved a sigh of relief at not having to accept the two windfall warriors into their midst, things were not quite as they first appeared. Thursday's "knife edge" vote left the society intact, but a swing of less than 1 per cent would have changed the outcome, and the Nationwide has been left open to hostile bids from other quarters. The next episode in this gripping drama is sure to be as explosive. Although windfalls proved elusive for Nationwide members waving the Hardern flag, for others the week dropped a few golden apples. On Wednesday the three founders of Direct Holidays found themselves £60 million better off after Airtoours bought their company, started up with only £2 million, for £80 million. Elsewhere John Madejski, Reading Football Club's chairman, banked £174 million after selling Hurst Publishing, the

company behind Auto Trader magazine. Sports Division, sold to Tom Hunter by Sears for just £20 million, is to make Mr Hunter £250 million when it merges with rival JJB Sports.

Sears shares ended the week down 10 per cent after a ten-for-one consolidation, while Selfridges, which floated on Monday after its demerger from Sears, ended the week slightly down from its opening price of 229p to 225p.

Willis Corroon, the insurance broker that has been the subject of bid speculation for, it would seem, many years, finally succumbed to a £851 million cash bid from Kohlberg Kravis Roberts, the US

management buyout team, backed by a group of UK insurers. The monthly Consumer Confidence Barometer prepared by GfK for the European Commission did nothing to lift spirits. It showed consumer confidence at its lowest level since Labour came to power, reflecting fears of higher interest rates, sluggish house prices and disappointing retail sales. Rover announced that it was cutting 1,500 jobs and putting recruitment for a further 1,500 on hold. Industry sources claimed another 20,000 jobs are at risk as Rover cuts back on the level of components sourced in the UK, switching its allegiance to cheaper overseas suppliers. Deanne

Julius, the only member of the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee to have held a job in industry, said on Wednesday that base interest rates are too high and are causing the economy to slow down faster than is necessary to meet inflationary targets. As the weekend approached with the hope of fairer weather, those of us stuck in Blighty understood the grumbles from Boots about the ever-elusive British summer, which, the company said, has adversely affected sales of suntan lotion and sunglasses - perhaps an Indian summer is the only last chance saloon?

MATTHEW BARBOUR

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Mellon Bank to pay £170m for Newton Management

BY CAROLINE MERRELL

MELLON BANK, one of America's biggest banks, is to buy Newton Management, one of Britain's last remaining independent investment management houses.

The £170 million deal will pay Stewart Newton, who founded the company in 1977, £44 million. Around 100 of Newton's employees will also benefit from the buyout, because the company is two-thirds owned by management and staff, and one-third owned by the Royal Bank of Scotland.

Mr Newton said: "This merger is progressive. All stakeholders will benefit: clients, staff and shareholders. Increased distribution and enhanced global reach will allow investment to grow in all aspects of the business."

Mellon will own 75 per cent of the company initially, with 25 per cent retained by staff directly or through share options. The deal is structured to stop staff from leaving. Mellon is paying around 1.4 per cent of the £12.5 billion under management, which is much less than the 3 per cent of funds under management paid for Mercury by Merrill Lynch.

Ron O'Hanley, president of Dreyfus Institutional Invest-

tors, Mellon's investment business, said the price was fair. He said: "We talked to a number of different institutions in the UK, the company offered the best fit. Eventually we want to hold 20 per cent of our assets outside the US."

Colin Harris, Newton's chief executive officer, said the deal meant that Newton would not lose its individual identity but would give it access to the global market. He said: "We wanted to avoid any clash of culture difficulties." Newton will continue to sell products through a link up with the Royal Bank of Scotland.

George Mathewson, chief executive of the Royal Bank of Scotland, said: "Our relationship with the Newton has been excellent. Newton provides our customers with a range of high quality investment products and we are delighted that our link with them will continue following this sale."

Newton will retain its name and the day-to-day management of the company will remain with the Newton team. The fund manager offers institutional fund management, retail funds in the form of unit trusts and private client services.



Price is right: Ron O'Hanley, left, who described the price as fair, with Stewart Newton, who will receive £44 million

Bae and Dasa play down speculation

BY ADAM JONES

BRITISH AEROSPACE and Dasa, its German partner in Airbus, yesterday tried to play down suggestions that they have had merger talks that could freeze out Aérospatiale, the French aircraft manufacturer.

However, the British Aerospace share price rose from 486p to 513p on hopes of an Anglo-German alliance, adding to the gains made on Thursday when France said that it has decided to partially privatise Aérospatiale, which would remove one of the

obstacles to industry consolidation in Europe.

A BAE spokesman said: "We are in discussions with everybody on the creation of a European aerospace and defence company."

However, BAE and Dasa were understood to be putting pressure on the French Government to accelerate the privatisation of its aircraft industry. They are likely to continue this pressure until the French commit to selling the rest of their Aérospatiale, holding.

Leeds Group 'fraud' sends shares diving

BY FRASER NELSON

LEEDS GROUP, the troubled textiles dyeing and printing company, has admitted that it has uncovered "fraud" in one of its subsidiaries.

Shares in the company, which have been in tailspin for the last week, plunged a further 9 per cent to a fresh low of 54.2p yesterday as it said it has frozen the assets of an accountant working in one of its UK offices.

It added that, having identified the culprit, it is confident of clawing most of the money back. It has been granted a

Mareva injunction against the accountant. An investigation by KPMG, its auditors, has reassured the company that there should be no material effect to its profits.

One City analyst said: "It just seems to be a case of one accountant creaming off the profits, for want of a better phrase. It doesn't look too serious, but it doesn't inspire much confidence either."

The company has decided to freeze the final dividend at 7p — below the expectations of its City followers.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Lasmo to dispose of Colombian division

LASMO, the oil and gas exploration group, has agreed to sell its Colombian subsidiary to Braspetro Oil Services for \$151 million (£91 million). The deal also gives Lasmo the option to acquire offshore Brazilian assets and is expected to close this year. The subsidiary was valued in Lasmo's books at \$46 million and the sale is expected to leave Lasmo with a profit of about \$50 million. Lasmo shares fell from 223p to 220.4p.

The deal is also expected to knock about nine percentage points off Lasmo's gearing. Joe Darby, chief executive of Lasmo, said: "Lasmo's withdrawal from Colombia and the review of our Italian businesses reflect our strategy of concentrating on material businesses with growth opportunities. We are very pleased with the successful sale of our Colombian business which attracted a high level of interest at a time of low oil prices. This agreement also builds upon Lasmo's established relationship with Braspetro in Azerbaijan where we are jointly bidding for a share in the deep water Alov block in the Caspian Sea and positions Lasmo to participate in the opportunities that may be available as Brazil opens its upstream sector to foreign investment."

Thistle sale moves closer

THISTLE HOTELS, the UK's second largest hotel group, moved one step closer to getting a new owner yesterday after Brierley Investments, its 46 per cent New Zealand shareholder, said it would be making an announcement on the sale next month. Roger Douglas, chairman of BIL's investment arm, said: "The board is in discussions with a number of parties which may result in a sale of the company." BIL plans to sell assets worth NZ\$650 million (£203 million) in addition to its Thistle stake by the end of the year.

Airbus founder dies

HENRI ZIEGLER, the founder of Airbus, died overnight on Thursday at the age of 92. M Ziegler was the director-general of the Airbus Industrie consortium grouping France's Aérospatiale, Daimler Aerospace, British Aerospace and Spain's Casa from 1970 to 1975. M Ziegler inspired development of the consortium's first mass carrier airliner, the A300B. A prominent member of the French resistance during the Second World War, M Ziegler was chief executive of Air France after the war and of Aérospatiale.

New Belfast Forte hotel

PLANS have been unveiled for a new £16 million hotel in Belfast, as the city continues to undergo a renaissance. The new 170-bedroom Posthouse on Ormeau Avenue between the city's main commercial and entertainment areas is scheduled to open in two years. The hotel, which will be managed by Forte Hotels under a contract with property developer Sheridan Group, is to replace the existing Posthouse, at Dunmurry on the outskirts of Belfast. The Dunmurry staff are expected to be transferred to the new hotel.

First-half loss for Bull

SHARES in Bull fell by 19 per cent on the Paris bourse after the computer company announced a loss of £353 million (£35.7 million) for the first half of the year. Bull said the fall was caused by increased investment in software and research. However, the result was far worse than analysts had expected, and particularly disappointing as the company had managed to make a first-half profit last year for the first time since 1988. The second half is traditionally better for Bull, which made a full-year profit of £603 million in 1997.

Adidas increases sales

ADIDAS-SALOMON, the sports group, said that its pre-tax profits rose "about 8 per cent" in the first half of 1998, but it did not give a precise figure. The company said that although group sales in the period were up more than 55 per cent, the performance of the Salomon group was "disappointing". Adidas said that its net income before special items would be "slightly above last year's level". It added that the Salomon division was hit in particular by weakness in its Taylor Made golf division. Financial results will be published on August 4.

Departure at Pascoe's

CHRISTOPHER WILSON, chief executive of Pascoe's Group, the food producer, has requested an early release from his contract and will leave the company on July 31. Mr Wilson had been due to leave on November 30. Henry Shouler, chairman, will assume an executive role after Mr Wilson's departure. Mr Shouler said that the acquisition of Repnor Gold had been completed and that the company was hopeful its existing national sales coverage would result in increased distribution for the Repnor products.

Chinese brokers merge

TWO Chinese securities firms are to merge, creating China's biggest brokerage. According to analysts, the merger between J and A Securities and Cusson Securities is designed to shore up the fragmented securities industry as it prepares for foreign competition and to reduce the influence of the People's Liberation Army over J and A Securities, which was set up in 1992 by the Guangzhou Military Region and a Hong Kong businessman. The merger was revealed in the China Securities and Shanghai Securities News dailies.

South Korea bank plan

THE Government of South Korea has pushed ahead with its overhaul of the banking sector with an agreement to take on the assets and liabilities of crippled banks and plans to bolster healthy ones. The moves came as 22 banks in Seoul reported combined net losses of \$5.2 billion (£3.1 billion) in the first half to June, a reversal of a \$114 million profit a year earlier. The Government will raise \$12.5 billion to help banks recapitalise, with some of the funds to be set aside for the foreign capital increases for seven healthy banks.

UK prices 30% higher says Toyota

BY ADAM JONES

UK car buyers are paying as much as 30 per cent more for Toyota vehicles than some customers in continental Europe, the Japanese group admitted yesterday.

Toyota said it wanted to bring the disparity down to less than 10 per cent within the next two or three years. However, Juan José Díaz Ruiz, an executive vice-president of Toyota Motor Europe, gave warning that price cuts depended on the pound showing signs of stability.

A price cut could backfire against the group if sterling then fell in value. Mr Díaz Ruiz added that part of the reason for the high UK prices were the extra facilities supplied as standard on cars here. Iwao Okijima, the head of Toyota's worldwide purchasing, also pledged yesterday that the carmaker would not jettison its UK suppliers because of the short-term strength of the pound.

Toyota said the cars it makes in the UK are overwhelming made with British parts, with 85 per cent of each vehicle coming from the UK.

Mr Okijima said UK parts companies would not necessarily be disadvantaged if they wanted to supply the Toyota factory that is to open in France in 2001 and produce a small car called the Yaris. He said UK suppliers could always open a factory in France.

Leech scales new heights with SMR

BY DOMINIC WALSH

KEVIN LEECH, the multimillionaire chairman of M.L. Laboratories, the pharmaceuticals group, is clearly a man of extremes. Having already acquired Land's End and John O'Groats, he is now set to acquire a controlling interest in Snowdon Mountain Railway (SMR), which climbs to the summit of the highest peak in England and Wales.

Mr Leech, ranked 157th in *The Sunday Times* Rich List with a £130 million fortune, is acquiring 52.5 per cent of SMR through one of his private companies, Crookley Green, rather than through his quoted leisure vehicle, Queensborough Holdings. He has also offered to buy the rest of the shares at £7.3p each, valuing SMR at £1.33 million. The controlling interest is being acquired from Cadogan Properties, a subsidiary of Compeco, the property investment and development group. The shares are traded on a matched bargain basis, the most recent transaction being in April at 50p a share.

The railway, launched in 1896, runs from Llanberis in North Wales to the summit station on Snowdon — 3,493 feet above sea level.

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	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia \$	2.76	2.56
Austria Sch	21.75	20.09
Belgium Fr	63.96	59.00
Canada C	2.506	2.418
Cyprus Cyp£	0.909	0.857
Denmark Kr	11.83	10.94
Egypt Pound	5.88	5.27
Finland Mk	0.92	0.87
France Fr	10.36	9.58
Germany DM	3.11	2.87
Greece Dr	316	277
Hong Kong \$	10.68	12.48
India Rupee	1.30	1.14
Ireland P	1.22	1.14
Israel Shk	6.45	5.79
Italy Lira	207.51	229.98
Japan Yen	3094	2847
Malta	0.622	0.593
Netherlands Gld	3.514	3.218
New Zealand \$	1.08	1.02
Norway Kr	13.10	12.18
Portugal Esc	314.04	292.01
S Africa Rd	10.06	9.30
Spain Ptas	261.83	243.97
Switzerland Fr	13.89	12.79
Turkey Lira	2.43	2.14
USA \$	461033	431158
	1.765	1.622

THE SUNDAY TIMES

BUYOUT BONANZA

You've read the book. You've seen the film. Well now they are here. KKR, Wall Street's legendary leveraged-buyout firm, has claimed its biggest prize in Britain. Now it is hunting for more...

Business Focus tomorrow

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Auntie looks at her overheads



COMMENTARY by our City Editor

Those television viewers who feel obliged to pick up the telephone and tell the BBC just how delighted, or outraged, they are by Auntie's output will soon detect that the duty officers on the end of the line have assumed a new accent. The Beeb will shortly award the privilege of dealing with such calls to a call centre in Belfast.

Outsourcing is in vogue at the BBC, and not just for programme making. Although the organisation's recently published annual report brought forth the now traditional gripes about programme makers being deprived of funds and Radio 3 not being afforded the respect, or unlimited commissioning budget, it might like, there was scant appreciation of the cost savings being made elsewhere in the organisation. Birtism may have started as an attack on the luvvies, but it has moved on to the support side of the organisation.

John Smith, the finance director, is set on halving the cost of the finance function at the BBC. He is on course to accomplish this through an outsourcing deal involving EDS and Coopers and Lybrand, which will be fully implemented by 2000. The efficiency drive made savings of £76 million last year, 20 per cent better than budget, and Smith is aiming to cut at least another 20 per cent this year. Since commentators tend not to like the way the savings are used — who needs digital broadcasting? —

there is little praise for the savings themselves.

Undeterred, Smith is pushing on and taking a look at the Beeb's extensive property portfolio. In the books at £340 million, it needs a complete overhaul. The stately Broadcasting House may be safe, even though the *Today* presenters were recently decamped, much to their publicly voiced distaste, but virtually every other property is under scrutiny. Television Centre at White City, in particular, needs significant upgrading if it is to accommodate more staff and be geared up for the dawn of digital. Smith does not intend that Auntie should pay.

The DSS programme in which the portfolio was handed over to Prime to run is one blueprint that is being examined, although the likelihood is that deals will be done over individual properties rather than the lot.

There is an obvious partner who might be willing to help out at White City: Elliott Bernard, whose Chestfield is soon to start work on a major retail development on an adjoining site. Bernard is a ferocious negotiator but, given the spare land which the Beeb has and on which he might some day wish to

expand his project, there is likely to be scope for a deal.

Then what about opening up some of those properties to the public? The success of the Capital Radio cafe in Leicester Square has not gone unremarked by Auntie. If you want to get close to your listeners, why not invite them in? Some enterprising cafes should come up with a plan to turn local BBC stations into thriving centres of the community, with a bit of broadcasting thrown in.

Wessex opts for decent obscurity

What seems a munificent bid premium for Wessex Water would shrink to virtually nothing if Wessex shares had managed to keep up with the all-share index this year. But this is not a usual year. It is the year before a water price review. The propaganda war has already started. Outraged stories

about fat-cat water bosses have mysteriously appeared in the more unimaginatively predictable papers.

Consumer groups are demanding a better cut from a Labour Government. Environmental groups are demanding standards be raised far higher, whatever the cost, and politicians such as Nigel Giffiths, the Consumer Affairs Minister are recycling pre-election clichés, demanding tougher regulation and revenge for privatisation, as if there had been no levy.

On the stock market, this is boiled down to uncertainty, the usual condition of any utility stock before a regulatory review. It is 1998, so water shares have a bad time. Wessex has, however, even underperformed the sector as a whole. That seems strange. Since Wessex has made stronger efficiency gains than most, there are more gains to hand back to consumers. But Wessex has long

attracted the teacher's eye as the most responsive to Ofwat's concerns and the regulator has made it clear it will reward past virtue and punish vice.

That is where the other frustration comes in. Wessex shares have long benefited from a possible bid from Waste Management, its US waste partner. But Waste Management fell by the wayside, so Wessex seemed likely to exercise its right to buy out its partner. Wessex is ambitious but the market hates the idea of expansion, perhaps requiring more capital, even more than uncertainty.

Wessex has rushed into the hands of a partner that does not have anything like as good a reputation here, in its own field of energy, as Wessex has in water. But we should not be surprised to find more utility managers happy and relieved to be escaping the exposure brought by being a UK quoted company. That is one reason

Back to the future with Ashcroft

It is time to check the calendar, because it feels like 1986 all over again. Here we have a stock market company that brings together the following: Michael Ashcroft, the creator of ADT, the world's most complex group, current deputy treasurer of the Conservative Party and a former Belize ambassador to the European Commission; Tony Berry, the former head of the infamous Blue Arrow, whose rule over the company was weakened when Mr Ashcroft attacked him from the floor of its annual shareholders' meeting; Nigel Wray, who helped Carlton Communications, Burford, Nottingham Forest and Chorion find their

way to the stock market; and Richard Fenhalls, who used to run Henry Ansbacher, a merchant bank best known for giving house room to Lord Spens, a key player in the Guinness affair, and advising David Abell of Suter Lane.

Carlisle Holdings, as it is called, bears many of the hallmarks of ADT. Mr Ashcroft has cooked up a complicated scheme to make a new company from a collection of oddities via two acquisitions, a reverse takeover, a rights issue and various intermediary companies. Once again he is promising an aggressive acquisition trail to build up a presence in the services sector.

Ordinary investors may find it hard to work out how or why this company makes the profits it will surely report. But they can be sure of one thing: the principals will be aiming to replenish their fortunes from Carlisle.

P&D is a weak hold

PHILLIPS & DREW had survived a close examination by the new UBS board. It never made sense for the merged bank to abandon a London fund manager. But Dye's future depends on markets going pear-shaped. His chairman is handing over to another loyal P&D veteran. But a new generation is being promoted so UBS could wield the sceptre later yet claim continuity.

Eurotunnel development to provide retail boost

By TIMON DAY

EUROTUNNEL is boosting its retail revenue with a 28,000 square metre development of factory shops and a DIY store next to its Calais terminal.

Planning permission has been applied for and work on the development is expected to begin in late 1999. The new shops will create 350 jobs. Eurotunnel is collecting substantial sales royalties from its successful Cité Europe shopping centre, which opened three years ago, covering 73,000 sq m.

Last year 17 million people visited the centre, of whom 25 per cent were British. Britons are big spenders, taking advantage of the favourable exchange rate, and account

for 35 per cent of the centre's sales.

First-half sales revenue at Eurotunnel increased 63 per cent to £271 million, with sharp rises in both car and freight transport through Le Shuttle.

However, the shares fell 2p to 69p because there was a slowdown in quarter-on-quarter growth, from 72 per cent in the first quarter, compared with 1997, to 55 per cent in the second quarter.

If the 1997 figures are adjusted to include business interruption insurance payments, after the fire that put the tunnel out of operation for many weeks, the second-quarter increase was only 23 per cent.

Passenger traffic carried on the ailing Eurostar high-speed train service rose only 12 per cent.

Patrick Ponsolle, executive chairman of Eurotunnel, said: "The figures confirm the encouraging evolution of the start of the year. It reinforces my confidence in our ability to achieve our operating profit target for 1998."

Last year Eurotunnel lost £596 million at the pre-tax level, and the consensus this year among analysts is a reduced loss of £250 million, much of it a result of the debt restructuring that has slashed interest payments.

It is the growth of the cross-channel market as much as Eurotunnel's efforts to in-

crease market share that lies behind the excellent revenue figures. The Dover-Calais car market increased by 15 per cent in the second quarter, while the overall freight market achieved a 32 per cent rise.

Eurotunnel is attracting more car traffic through a raft of special offers but this is affecting profits, which the company will not disclose at this stage. Freight shuttle traffic increased by 36 per cent, narrowly beating freight market growth.

The growth of the rail-freight business was only 3 per cent because of the strike by the freight train drivers at the Calais Freddum depot in April.

Tempus, page 27

ICI completes Tioxide sale in \$250m deal

By CARL MORTFISD

ICI is to sell its American titanium dioxide operations to NL Industries, a Houston-based company, for \$250 million (£152 million).

The deal comes after the agreement last year to sell Tioxide, excluding the US operation, to DuPont for \$750 million.

The buyer is a subsidiary of Kronos, a leading international maker of titanium dioxide pigments, which are used as whiteners in paint production.

The price represents a premium to the \$150 million threshold underwritten by DuPont in its agreement to buy the non-American Tioxide businesses. DuPont is an important Tioxide producer and was unable to increase its position for regulatory reasons.

BT takes £250m Malaysian stake

By CHRIS AYRES

BRITISH TELECOM yesterday took advantage of economic turmoil in Asia by acquiring a £250 million stake in Binariang, the fast-growing Malaysian telecoms group.

Western telecoms companies are desperate to cash in on rapidly liberalising telecoms markets in Asia, but operators in the region have been reluctant to let in outsiders.

Analysts in London yesterday said BT would not have been given the opportunity to buy the 33.3 per cent stake had economic conditions been more favourable.

The deal will involve the issue of new shares by Binariang, which provides fixed, mobile and international telecoms services.

BT already has similar joint ventures in Japan, Singapore and India, but yesterday's deal

was the largest so far. Sir Peter Bonfield, chief executive of BT, said: "In order to achieve our aim of becoming the world's leading communications player we have established partnerships and alliances in our key target markets with companies which have a strong local base and which share our vision of the future."

"Binariang has that strong base and shares our vision."

As a result of the new issue of shares to BT, Usaha Tegas, an industrial conglomerate, will reduce its ownership from 76 per cent to 49.1 per cent, and MediaOne International, formerly US West, will reduce its stake from 19 per cent to 12.6 per cent.

BT yesterday said that in the three years since its launch, Maxis, Binariang's mobile telephone company, had won a 22 per cent market share.

Waddingtons warns of US difficulties

By FRASER NELSON

WADDINGTONS, the paper and packaging company, has given warning that technical problems with its US food subsidiary will wipe £1.5 million from this year's profits.

The company said its Carthage unit in Texas has suffered installation difficulties that had slowed output. It expects all the financial penalties to be met in its first half.

Michael Orr, chairman, said that the company's three other divisions are performing "broadly in line with expectations" but the shares still dropped 16p to 270p.

Mr Orr added that the sale of the company's core cartons business was "progressing satisfactorily".

Tempus, page 27

Freeman to join French defence firm

By OUR CITY STAFF

ROGER FREEMAN, the former British Defence Procurement Minister, has been appointed to the board of Thomson-CSF, the newly privatised French defence electronics group.

The non-executive appointment, effective from next January, comes in the wake of efforts by Thomson to forge links with potential foreign partners in the fragmented European defence industry.

In June shareholders approved the appointment to the board of Gerhard Cromme, the chairman of Krupp, the German steel group.

Mr Freeman, a chartered accountant, has been a partner since the end of last year at the accountancy firm Coopers & Lybrand, which is now the merged PricewaterhouseCoopers.

He was an MP until last year, when he lost his seat in the May general election.



Ex-Minister Roger Freeman on board at Thomson-CSF

Car Group disclosure hits shares

By TIMON DAY

SHARES in The Car Group fell a further 9p to 26p yesterday as the company disclosed that it is seeking a financial rescue after profit warnings in June and July. Its borrowings have mushroomed from £25 million last year to about £31 million against shareholders' funds of £2.7 million and it is trading at a loss.

The shares peaked at 222p nine months ago. The company has entered talks with an important financial institution to refinance the borrowings, most of which finance the stock of 5,000 second-hand cars.

Richard Farr, chairman, refused to name the rescuer but said it was interested in expanding its lending business to 700 people visiting The Car Group's six sites every week. This could encompass mortgages as well as car loans.

Happy couple

MY INVITATION to the society wedding reception of the year, at The Lanesborough hotel in Knightsbridge today, seems, unaccountably, to have been lost in the post so I shall not be able to celebrate the marriage of Peter Matson, a director that I and no doubt many of Truster's creditors would wish, I do hear that fellow directors Lord Moyne and Lindsay Smallbone are expected to be at the white-tie bash before another reception they are to attend in Sweden next month.

This will decide whether they should be extradited to face charges there, and if it goes the wrong way their stay could be a lengthy one. Truster is, of course, under investigation on both sides of the North Sea for the disappearance of millions of pounds of funds, but I am sure no one at the bash will be so tactless as to mention this.

ers, economists and accountants offering advice. But a team from British Invisibles is flying out to Thailand on Monday with an added ingredient: the first BI delegate from the trade unions to give advice from the perspective of the workforce.

Sir Gavin Laird, 65, took early retirement three years ago, after overseeing the merger of the electricians' and engineers' unions, and he works now as a consultant and a non-executive director. He went through the privatisation of British Steel and, rather later, was chairman of a privatised bus company, so he reckons he has seen the process, and the inevitable job losses, from both sides.

Reunion

THE leaving do this week for the latest defections from Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, sorry, Deutsche Bank as we must all learn to call it, turned into a reunion of Morgan Grenfell-ites past and (a select few) present. Mark Preston and Robert



Manicured

IT IS a strange career trajectory that starts as an army helicopter pilot, dips sharply to take in a spell as a City spin doctor and ends as a manicurist. But thus it has turned out for Russell Ross-Smith, who last night quit Brutuswick, where for the past three years he has spun on behalf of the likes of Kwik-Fit and Rills Royce. He wants to set up a chain of manicure salons, the first one planned near Liverpool Street Station.

The idea came on a trip to New York, where such establishments are common. "Most women, faced with the opportunity to pop out at lunchtime for a good, cheap manicure, would leap at the chance," he says. Ross-Smith, 32 and with a seven-month-old daughter, has Nigel McGinley, former chief executive of The Rack, interested in becoming involved. He is now looking to raise the necessary capital and find the right location. So let me get this right. You've got a) no money b) no shop and c) a young family to support. I can only wish you luck.

MARTIN WALLER

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Paul Durman examines the costs and benefits of an organisation for young high-flyers

Living a high life with all the President's men

Glen Travers recruited his chairman through the YPO but his board balked at the expense of his being a member and he paid with his job

It's tough at the top, but not that tough — not if you are one of the jet-setting high-flyers who belong to the Young Presidents' Organisation. The YPO is a little-known business networking body that has come to light in the controversy over the level of benefits and expenses claimed by Glen Travers, until last month chairman and chief executive of Cortec, the drug development company.

The YPO will not entirely mind the attention — it counts only 200 British chief executives and managing directors among its 8,900 members worldwide, and it is keen to attract more. Jane Crocker, the YPO's senior area director for Europe, reckons there must be 2,000 youthful high-flyers in London alone who would meet its entrance criteria.

The organisation may have preferred to make its public debut in other circumstances. Mr Travers was forced out of the company he founded when his boardroom colleagues learnt the true level of his expenses — some £42,400 a year of which relate to his membership of the YPO and the extensive international travel that this involved. This is not the local Rotary club.

One of the attractions of membership is the opportunity to attend international gatherings of business leaders at conferences that are known as "universities". It was a seminar on education that took Mr Travers, travelling in the Cortec company helicopter, to Euro Disney for three days last February.

Ms Crocker explains that Paris is a bit humdrum for your average young president, and that many universities are located in more exotic locations to lure YPs away from their businesses — particularly if they are to bring their spouses and families. Past venues have included the Amazon and Hawaii; next Christmas the YPO is proposing a seven-day university over the new year that will start at Harare in Zimbabwe and end up in

Cape Town in South Africa. Price? "Probably about \$8,000 (£4,850)." Forthcoming meetings in Naples and Paris will cost \$3,000 for member plus spouse.

To qualify for membership, you must have become the president, chairman, chief executive or managing director of your business by the age of 40. Your business must employ at least 50 staff, and there are minimum thresholds for sales, assets or level of investment raised. Prospective members must also exhibit "leadership qualities and a high degree of integrity in personal and business affairs".

Ms Crocker says: "They're all very dynamic businessmen. Having access to just under 9,000 CEOs around the world is pretty attractive, particularly when they're pretty high-flying people who can open doors for you. You can't buy that experience with consultants. It's great to talk to people who have been through it themselves."

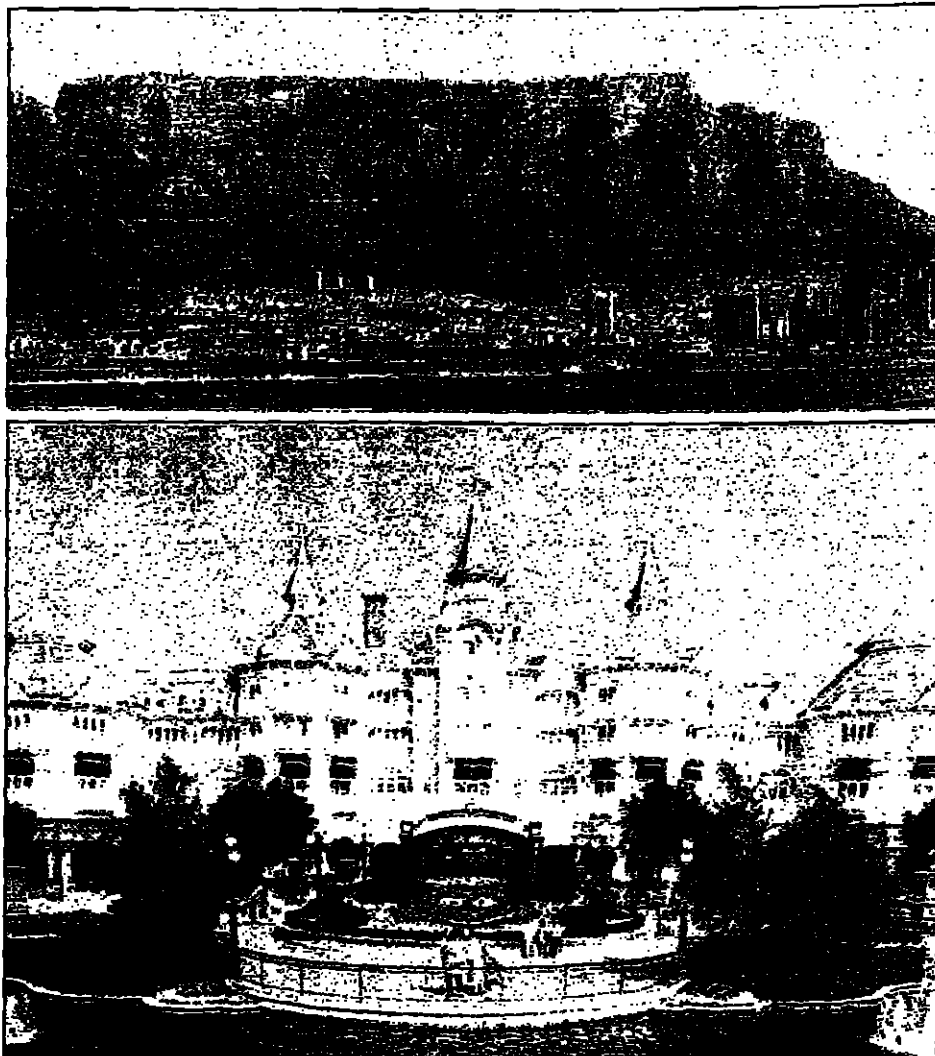
Of course, the YPO's very name is enough to encourage cynical sniggering, particularly among members of the Fourth Estate. Its origins, equally obviously, lie in America. The business leaders who are its members are, it says, "united in the purpose of becoming better presidents through education and idea exchange. Each member seeks to continually improve by sharing challenges and ideas with peers like you."

When Ray Hickok opened the first meeting in 1950, not even he realised the effect his brainchild would have on the world of business. By sharing their experiences, those first 20 young presidents helped one another to cope with the unusual pressure and pleasures of early success.

Early success — it's a killer, isn't it? But don't laugh: the YPO's UK members have included some serious businessmen. They include Sir Graham Kirkham, the Yorkshire miner's son who heads the DFS furniture chain, and Alan



Simon Bentley, left, and Sir Graham Kirkham are among those who joined the YPO. The organisation has used venues like Euro Disney and plans a trip to Cape Town



Jones, managing director of TNT Express (UK), the distribution company. Both of these have now "graduated" to the World Presidents' Organisation, a grown-up body for those who have reached 50.

Other members include Bill Holroyd, of Holroyd Meek, the contract catering company, sold to Booker for £22 million in 1995; Simon Bentley, chairman of Blacks Leisure; and Ross Warburton, a former fund manager who runs the privately owned Warburtons, a £170 million bakery business based in Bolton.

The YPO has also been able to attract speakers of the calibre of Bill Clinton, Nelson Mandela and Mother Teresa to its conferences. In the UK, Ms Crocker boasts of speakers including Baroness Thatcher and the full set of top royals — the Queen, the Duke of Edinburgh, the Prince of Wales, the

Duke of York, Prince Edward and the Princess Royal. Inevitably, Peter Mandelson has also addressed YPO members.

Ironically, it was at a YPO meeting that Mr Travers met Lord Patten, the former Conservative Education Secretary whom he brought on to the Cortec board. Lord Patten asked Mr Travers to resign last month. The benefits of networking have their limits, even for young presidents.

Mr Bentley is an enthusiastic supporter. "It's a wonderful organisation," he says. "It brings together the heads of a very diverse number of businesses."

He says the educational side of the YPO is very stimulating. "But the most interesting and beneficial part is the ability to discuss with entrepreneurs problems and issues often faced by all of us at different times, and to get unbiased

opinions from people interested in each other's welfare."

Membership does not need to be expensive. Commitments have prevented Mr Bentley from attending any of the universities, and his involvement mainly consists of going to monthly chapter meetings. Mr Bentley reckons the YPO costs him "a few hundred pounds a year". The annual fee is £2,000 or about £1,200.

He says: "Frankly I've had so much benefit from the organisation that, in relation, the cost is absolutely nothing. Any advice on any issue is highly costly."

In the YPO, he adds, "I'm talking to the heads of really massive businesses, people who have had experience of different situations, who point me who to go to on particular issues." Asked for specific examples, Mr Bentley says YPO

contacts have recommended a very good firm of headhunters and have helped him to find shop properties — he says he could easily cite many more examples.

As you might expect, Mr Travers is similarly effusive about the YPO. "It allows you to learn from other chief executives who are making their businesses better. I met the current chairman of Cortec through YPO — I didn't pay a finder's fee. I brought in one of the best marketing executives through the YPO."

He says he regarded the YPO as part of his "continuing education obligation" to Cortec, and draws an analogy with undertaking an MBA. Hence his belief that the money Cortec spent on the YPO was a perfectly normal business expense. "There are thousands of chief executives

around the world who are members of YPO. I imagine many of them have their costs paid by the company. It's a fairly normal expenditure."

The YPO is also big on family. It says: "YPO's educational programmes are designed to strengthen relationships between father and child, mother and daughter, and the family as a whole. A range of international seminars and universities address the problems unique to successful parents and their children. Just as you will greatly benefit from the powerful experiences of a forum, so can your spouse, addressing concerns unique to YPO mates."

Since Mr Travers joined the YPO in about 1990, he has taken his family along to three of the "family universities" that take place twice a year. He explains: "One of the purposes is to make sure the family understands the challenges that the chief executive faces. It makes sure they understand why he's not home a lot of the time."

Mr Travers and co are not alone in feeling the need of a mutual support network. Some even younger turks, headed by Luke Johnson, who made his name and fortune with PizzaExpress, and Charles Dunstone and David Ross of the Carphone Warehouse, have founded the Mandrake Club for like-minded entrepreneurs. Other members include Julian Metcalfe, the founder of Prêt à Manger, the sandwich shop chain, and David Bruce, who set up the Slug and Lettuce pub group.

It all seems a long way from the days when businessmen caught up with the gossip by sharing a G and T in White's or some other London club.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

GOD SQUAD
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STYLE
GOLDEN GIRL
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The man who could give Rover a painful bite

For Bill Morris, general secretary of the T&G union, the ructions that Rover has sent through the car industry will have a particular poignancy. As a 16-year-old arrival in Britain from Jamaica, he began his working life at a Midlands car parts manufacturer. And there he also began his union career with a successful battle over protective gloves.

Next week Mr Morris's negotiators could throw down the gauntlet to Rover's management over the company's plans to introduce a four-day week at half of its plants, end overtime and call for working practices far more "flexible" than unions have so far endorsed. The talks on Monday come as the T&G is still reeling from Rover's sudden decision to cut 1,500 jobs and halt plans to recruit more than 1,000 workers as pledged only two months ago.

Not so long ago the prospect of such radical surgery at Cowley, Longbridge and the other sites of car production would have heralded a massive show of industrial muscle from the unions. The picture is now very different. Changes in union law and attrition in membership have weakened the hands of the once mighty. The T&G's ranks have shrunk from two million to about 890,000.

Unions are also growing more used to working in "social partnership" with their former boardroom adversaries. Ironically, Rover and the car unions struck a deal five years ago that has been heralded as the very model of social partnership. The unions agreed to more flexible working arrangements in return for the car giant's promise that there would be no compulsory redundancies. It was the Rover New Deal. In terms of both work agreements and Labourite terminology it was ahead of its time.

Now Tony Woodley, the T&G's chief negotiator, has declared that Rover is reneging on that deal. It remains to be seen how far Mr Morris pushes him towards moderation or how much appetite the T&G has for confrontation.

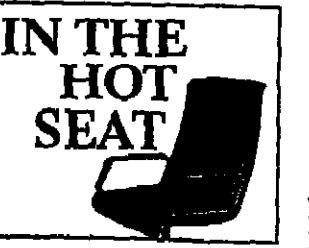
Bill Morris has never been Labour's ideal union leader, regarded as too left-wing. When he was elected in 1991 he beat



Bill Morris was unafraid to tackle issues head on in last year's dispute with British Airways

George Wright, Labour's preferred candidate, to become Britain's first black trade union leader. In 1996 he again saw off Labour's candidate — Harriet Harman's husband, Jack Dromey.

He was one of the more vocal opponents of the Government's decision to water down its election pledge on union recognition by introducing threshold requirements. He fought a vigorous dispute with British Airways last year which disrupted holiday flights. He has, however,



er, trod softly compared with his predecessors Ron Todd, Moss Evans and Jack Jones. Gently spoken with a tendency to reminiscence and to humanise his speeches and conversation with anecdotes, he does not come across as a firebrand. Mr Morris appears philosophical. He has seen many things before but has not fallen victim to

the cynical "them and us" mentality. After 40 years in the union movement one still gets the impression that Bill Morris will give things a try.

Rover, however, presents him with a dilemma. The company is undoubtedly suffering from the strength of the pound — the reason given for this week's cost-cutting. There is a suspicion within the unions that sterling's strength is being used as an excuse to mask changes to working agreements.

When companies blame the pound they know they are striking a politically sensitive chord on the back of which it is easier to push through measures that would otherwise seem draconian. Rover's sales are up, as are the profits of its parent, BMW.

When Mr Morris clashed with BA and the expensive public relations team that it recruited during last year's disputes he was not afraid to tackle the issues head on. He is likely to come under pressure now from members to ensure that the Rover New Deal means that partnership is a two-way relationship and employees are not forced to pay a high price for failings that lie elsewhere.

CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

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- 1990: Born Jamaica
- 1991: Elected to Britain and Jamaica
- 1992: Deputy to Ron Todd
- 1993: Deputy to Jack Jones
- 1994: Elected general secretary
- 1995: Re-elected general secretary
- 1996: Director of the Bank of England

هكذا من الأصل

NEWS

Detectives 'planted evidence'

Ten men are serving jail sentences of up to 20 years because detectives planted evidence against them...

Church donations may be halved

Treasurers of Britain's 35,000 churches fear they could lose more than £30 million a year in collection money...

Defensive Brown

Gordon Brown defended his handling of the economy as figures showing a slowdown in economic growth increased recession fears...

NHS seeks help

Hard-pressed NHS hospitals are turning to the private sector for help as they struggle to meet ambitious government targets...

Making fun

When Ashley Storr, 12 and Britain's youngest stand-up comic, skips on stage in Glasgow, even hecklers fall silent...

Minster keeps faith

A statue of Constantine the Great, the first Roman ruler to convert to Christianity, will be unveiled today in York Minster...

Back on board

Two Newcastle United directors who resigned after mocking fans rejoined the club board...

Camilla assistant resigns over leak

Amanda McManus, 42, the personal assistant to Camilla Parker Bowles since September, resigned after an inquiry into how news of a private meeting between the Prince of Wales's close friend and Prince William reached The Sun...

Water treatment

The Millennium Dome is being turned into a huge laboratory to test new methods of saving water...

Tour boycott

The Tour de France came close to collapse as riders staged a brief boycott over the spreading drugs scandal...

History hunter

For three decades in Jordan Valley caves, the real Indiana Jones has shown the determination of his mythical namesake to unearth ancient treasures...

Economic target

Keizo Obuchi, newly elected leader of Japan's ruling party, said his priority as Prime Minister would be to pull the country out of its economic morass...

Summer holidays

Parents are looking for centres that cater for both adults and children...



John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, and his wife, Pauline, encounter British Natural Theatre performers in "naked" costumes as the couple leave the Portuguese pavilion at Lisbon's Expo-98...

Pardon denied

The 306 First World War soldiers shot for cowardice and desertion will not be pardoned. Instead John Reid, Armed Forces Minister, expressed deep regret...

Criminal within

Corruption Sir Paul Condon is tackling shows indications of being more shocking than scandals 20 years ago...

Simon Jenkins

Rugby Union is a victim of new British commercialism. Page 18 Ben Macintyre: In 1994 cave-holders found an Ardeche cave adorned with more than 300 paintings...

Water: Enron

The US power group, reached agreement for a £1.36 billion cash bid for Wessex Water. Page 23 Bounces back: Michael Ashcroft returned to the stock market with an ambitious acquisition vehicle...

Cricket

A late collapse left England at 202-4 after South Africa were all out for 374. Page 29 Golf: Justin Rose's 65 meant he missed the Dutch Open cut by a stroke. Lee Westwood shared the lead...

Valerie Grove

Alan Parker, chairman of the British Film Institute, insists it should stick to education, exhibitions, supporting film festivals and working with film societies. Page 17

Transport White Paper

MOD land; role of musical competitions. Page 19

Professor James Gordon

engineer; Monica Danec, conservationist. Page 21

Recession fears grow

Nationwide ballot "bias"; travel insurance. Pages 48-56

Small car

The new BMW 3 Series - a faster lot of good. Page 43

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metro

Big interview... with Mark Lamarr... Page 6 Turning points: Why Antonia Franceschi left the US for Camden... Page 14

WEEKEND

Tory darling: Plainly, Ann Widdecombe's hour has come... Page 1 Headstrong: Test time for cycling helmets... Page 4

Vision

Seven-day listing of radio and 40 TV channels Camera chatter coming 'atcha' - from Cleopatra

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,853

A £20 book token will be awarded to the senders of the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD.

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Crossword puzzle grid with numbered squares.

- ACROSS: 1 Relax before conflict in plant (11). 7 For instance, goose's beginning (3). 9 One wanted to appear in this sort of picture (9).

Solution to Puzzle No 20847 and Solution to Puzzle No 20852.

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TODAY Sun sets: 5:14 am Sun sets: 9:00 pm

TOMORROW Sun sets: 5:15 am Sun sets: 9:56 pm

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Next quarter July 31 London 6:58 pm to 5:17 am

Next quarter July 31 London 6:58 pm to 5:17 am

Table with columns: Today, Tomorrow, Next quarter, etc. for various cities.

Next quarter July 31 London 6:58 pm to 5:17 am

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Next quarter July 31 London 6:58 pm to 5:17 am

Next quarter July 31 London 6:58 pm to 5:17 am

FORECAST

General: England and Wales bright and warm with spells of sunshine, although there will be a build-up of cloud...

London, E Anglia, E Midlands: fine and warm with good sunny spells. Light westerly wind. Max 22C (72F).

E, West N, NE England, W Midlands, S Wales: warm with plenty of sunshine, but cloud will build during the day...

N Wales, NW England, Lakes, Iolls: dry with sunny spells, but becoming more cloudy during the afternoon and evening...

Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Moray Firth: mainly dry, some hazy sunshine; showers possible late in day...

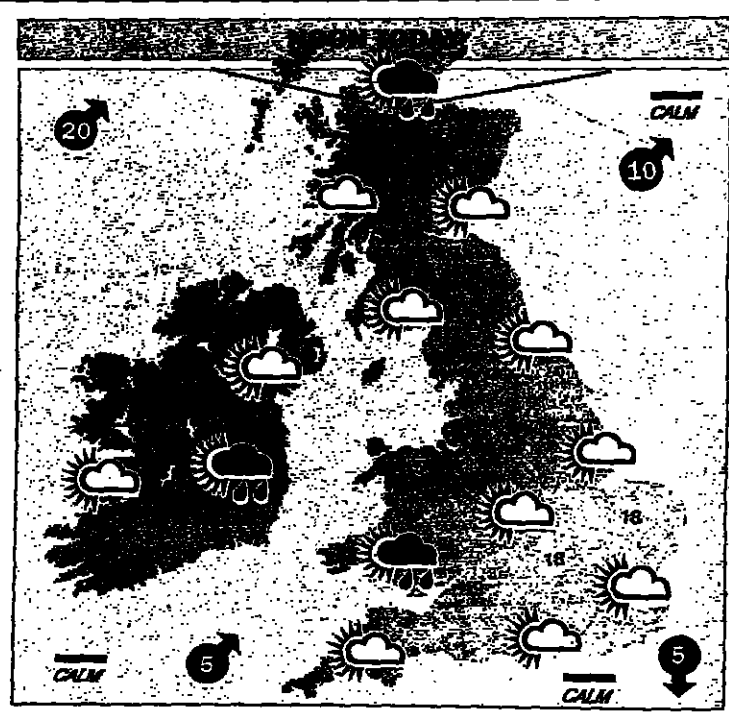
SW Scotland, Glasgow, Cant Highlands: dry start with a little sunshine but it will cloud over during afternoon with rain later this evening...

NE, NW Scotland, Argyll: becoming cloudy with local drizzle giving way to steeper rain towards dusk...

Outlook: unsettled with showers in many places, but bright and warm for much of Sunday in East Anglia and SE England.

Table with columns: Sun, Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat, Rain, Max, Min.

Changes to the chart from noon: low X will remain slow-moving and low L will remain slow-moving. High A will build to the northeast.



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BA747 to Toronto on 3 October - five nights at Chelsea Delta... Niagara with helicopter... Concorde to Heathrow £1,999...

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Fly to Edmonton on 18 September - one night in Jasper, Banff, Kalowna and Vancouver... Concorde super-sonic to Toronto £1,999...

BARBADOS OR CHATSWORTH

Concorde to Barbados on 23 December - ten nights at the deluxe Hilton... Concorde to Heathrow £5,999...

QE2 AND ORIENT-EXPRESS

Orient-Express to Southampton on 15 September... four night QE2 cruise to Barcelona via Ibiza... Concorde super-sonic to Heathrow £1,699...

ORIANA & ORIENT-EXPRESS

Orient-Express to Southampton on 16 October... four night Oriana cruise to Tenerife via Madeira... Concorde super-sonic to Heathrow £1,699...

Vertical sidebar with various advertisements and notices.

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Rose pruned despite gallant recovery
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Simon Barnes meets a tongue-tied Carson
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Confusion reigns in cycling's premier event
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WEEKEND MONEY
PROTECT YOUR MONEY WHEN MARKETS FALL
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PLUS
Wenger on Arsenal's transfer policy
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JULY 25 1998

OPENERS LEAD FIGHTBACK AT TRENT BRIDGE



Atherton, relishing his release from the shackles of the England captaincy, forces Liebenberg to take evasive action as he drives powerfully off the bowling of Adams at Trent Bridge yesterday. Photograph: Clive Mason/Allsport

England arrive at new platform

By ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

TRENT BRIDGE (second day of five): England, with six first-innings wickets in hand, are 172 runs behind South Africa
NOT since the Test match summer began amid inflated optimism on a murky Thursday in Birmingham have England enjoyed a day of such purpose and promise. By first keeping the South African total within accessible bounds, and then batting in a manner never less than assertive, they ensured that all things remain possible in this fourth Test match and in the Cornhill series.
The common denominator between Edgbaston and Nottingham was an opening stand of style and substance between Michael Atherton and Mark Butcher. Separated for the two interim games, to England's profound disadvantage, they were reunited triumphantly yesterday and put on 145 at a healthy rate of three runs an over as England set off in pursuit of 374.
When both were out in successive overs from Allan Donald, a spell of hot-headed cricket threatened to undo all the good work. Alec Stewart played one of his more neurotic innings and might have been out more than once before perishing to a poor shot, quickly to be followed by Nasser Hussain.
Four wickets had been lost for 54, but complete disillusionment was averted by the stubbornness of Ian Salisbury, the right-watcher. England's first innings is already past 200 for only the sixth time in 15 Tests, and though South Africa, with runs on the board, must remain marginal favourites, the balance of power would shift if the real Graeme Hick stands up this morning.
The pitch is growing paler by the day and if the weekend weather forecast is correct it should remain conducive to positive strokeplay. England must seek a minimum of 400; if they obtain it, Stewart may yet become their first captain



Butcher: fourth fifty in Test cricket

since Lord Hawke, in 1896, to put South Africa in and win. That distant prospect would be a truly remarkable outcome after the frustrations of the first day, when the dubious merit of Stewart's decision was exacerbated by periods of ill-directed bowling. Although Salisbury took some heavy and calculated punishment, the greater culprit was Dominic Cork and it was no coincidence that Stewart did not trust him to bowl yesterday.
The South Africa innings was not ended with the haste England would have liked but nor was it prolonged as productively as this resourceful side so often achieves. In 75 minutes, their remaining three wickets added 72 to the

overnight score, 48 of them made by Steve Elworthy, who is making his Test debut. Recruited to the tour party following a serious injury to Roger Telemachus, Elworthy still seemed unlikely to feature in the Test team until Lance Klusener followed Telemachus home and Makhaya Ntini developed a bee problem. He was included here as the stock seam bowler in support of Donald and Pollock, but, as Lancashire discovered two years ago, he is no mug with the bat.
In bright morning sunshine, Elworthy was left to steer the ship once Hansie Cronje's stirring century had ended with a top edge to second slip. His departure completed a hard-earned five-

wicket analysis for Greg Fraser, taking him past Fred Titmus and Maurice Tate into eleventh place among England Test bowlers. Even with eight wickets down, however, South Africa are never entirely subdued and Elworthy, throwing the bat effectively, scored all but four of a stand of 49 with Donald. Darren Gough, who bowled through the session from the Radcliffe Road End, finally snared him, pulling to deep square leg, and his need over accounted for Paul Adams, caught at second slip.
England were left with a tricky 35 minutes before lunch and Butcher was fortunate to survive it. He has a tendency to play across his pad early in an innings and Pollock's

inswinger can expose such a flaw brutally. At Edgbaston, he survived a highly plausible leg-before appeal when 11; here, he had made only one when Pollock's first ball hit him in line and Steve Dunne, the umpire, gave him the benefit of a very slim doubt.
The crowd, close to the new ground capacity of 14,500, had no further cause for anxiety before lunch and the longer the afternoon proceeded, the greater was England's command. Butcher played the odd rash stroke, specifically an unbalanced cut at Pollock and a mistimed pull against a quicker ball from Elworthy, but he also drove with poise and relief.
Just before tea, a cover drive for three took him to his

fourth Test fifty. It also raised the England 100, without loss, and after recent opening stands of 15, 8, 26 and 4, the event was so intoxicating that the old scoreboard briefly registered 500.
In the same over, Atherton took his leave of the textbook to thump Pollock heartily through the covers for four. The shot, played with a dip of the body and negligible footwork, was a measure of his mind, unrecognisably confident and relaxed since handing over the burdens of captaincy.
Even before yesterday, Atherton had scored 320 runs in six Test innings this summer, compared to 319 in his previous 19 innings spanning 12 months. He is once more demonstrably England's premier batsman and by reaching his half-century with ten runs from a Donald over, he showed a refreshing lack of inhibition.
He was, however, rightly disgusted by the way he got himself out, waiting at a wide one from Donald and allowing Mark Boucher to display his agility with a sprawling one-handed catch. South Africa had been held at bay for more than three hours, but they now enjoyed an hour of resurgent control.
Butcher was dreadfully unlucky to be given out leg-before to a ball angled into him by Donald from round the wicket and wide of the crease; it simply had to miss leg stump. The third-wicket pair failed to settle, though. Stewart's feet were rigid as he wuffed at the predatory Kallis to give catching practice to second slip and Hussain could not bicker with his leg-before dismissal, a first Test wicket for Elworthy.
Much now depends upon Rampuraksh, Hick and perhaps the precocious Flintoff but this, at least, is a highly competitive contest.

SCOREBOARD FROM TRENT BRIDGE

England won toss	South Africa	England	South Africa
G Kirsten b Gough 7 (30m, 21 balls, 1 four)	G Kirsten b Gough 7 (30m, 21 balls, 1 four)	G Kirsten b Gough 7 (30m, 21 balls, 1 four)	G Kirsten b Gough 7 (30m, 21 balls, 1 four)
G F J Liebenberg c Stewart b Gough 13 (30m, 40 balls, 1 four)	G F J Liebenberg c Stewart b Gough 13 (30m, 40 balls, 1 four)	G F J Liebenberg c Stewart b Gough 13 (30m, 40 balls, 1 four)	G F J Liebenberg c Stewart b Gough 13 (30m, 40 balls, 1 four)
J H Kallis c Stewart b Flintoff 47 (157m, 103 balls, 4 fours)	J H Kallis c Stewart b Flintoff 47 (157m, 103 balls, 4 fours)	J H Kallis c Stewart b Flintoff 47 (157m, 103 balls, 4 fours)	J H Kallis c Stewart b Flintoff 47 (157m, 103 balls, 4 fours)
D J Cullinan c Rampuraksh b Fraser 30 (31m, 53 balls, 3 fours)	D J Cullinan c Rampuraksh b Fraser 30 (31m, 53 balls, 3 fours)	D J Cullinan c Rampuraksh b Fraser 30 (31m, 53 balls, 3 fours)	D J Cullinan c Rampuraksh b Fraser 30 (31m, 53 balls, 3 fours)
*W J Cronje c Hick b Fraser 128 (205m, 212 balls, 1 six, 16 fours)	*W J Cronje c Hick b Fraser 128 (205m, 212 balls, 1 six, 16 fours)	*W J Cronje c Hick b Fraser 128 (205m, 212 balls, 1 six, 16 fours)	*W J Cronje c Hick b Fraser 128 (205m, 212 balls, 1 six, 16 fours)
J N Rhodes b Fraser 24 (64m, 44 balls, 3 fours)	J N Rhodes b Fraser 24 (64m, 44 balls, 3 fours)	J N Rhodes b Fraser 24 (64m, 44 balls, 3 fours)	J N Rhodes b Fraser 24 (64m, 44 balls, 3 fours)
S M Pollock c Stewart b Fraser 50 (20m, 71 balls, 6 fours)	S M Pollock c Stewart b Fraser 50 (20m, 71 balls, 6 fours)	S M Pollock c Stewart b Fraser 50 (20m, 71 balls, 6 fours)	S M Pollock c Stewart b Fraser 50 (20m, 71 balls, 6 fours)
M A Boucher b Fraser 58 (197m, 141 balls, 12 fours)	M A Boucher b Fraser 58 (197m, 141 balls, 12 fours)	M A Boucher b Fraser 58 (197m, 141 balls, 12 fours)	M A Boucher b Fraser 58 (197m, 141 balls, 12 fours)
M A Atherton c Boucher b Donald 58 (180m, 156 balls, 7 fours)	M A Atherton c Boucher b Donald 58 (180m, 156 balls, 7 fours)	M A Atherton c Boucher b Donald 58 (180m, 156 balls, 7 fours)	M A Atherton c Boucher b Donald 58 (180m, 156 balls, 7 fours)
N Hussain b Fraser 22 (77m, 52 balls, 4 fours)	N Hussain b Fraser 22 (77m, 52 balls, 4 fours)	N Hussain b Fraser 22 (77m, 52 balls, 4 fours)	N Hussain b Fraser 22 (77m, 52 balls, 4 fours)
*A J Stewart c Klusener b Kallis 19 (57m, 42 balls, 4 fours)	*A J Stewart c Klusener b Kallis 19 (57m, 42 balls, 4 fours)	*A J Stewart c Klusener b Kallis 19 (57m, 42 balls, 4 fours)	*A J Stewart c Klusener b Kallis 19 (57m, 42 balls, 4 fours)
M R Rampuraksh not out 1 (27m, 23 balls, 1 four)	M R Rampuraksh not out 1 (27m, 23 balls, 1 four)	M R Rampuraksh not out 1 (27m, 23 balls, 1 four)	M R Rampuraksh not out 1 (27m, 23 balls, 1 four)
I D K Salisbury not out 1 (22m, 23 balls)	I D K Salisbury not out 1 (22m, 23 balls)	I D K Salisbury not out 1 (22m, 23 balls)	I D K Salisbury not out 1 (22m, 23 balls)
Edms (b 4, lb 8, nb 11) 22	Edms (b 4, lb 8, nb 11) 22	Edms (b 4, lb 8, nb 11) 22	Edms (b 4, lb 8, nb 11) 22
Total (4 wickets, 71 overs, 230min) 202	Total (4 wickets, 71 overs, 230min) 202	Total (4 wickets, 71 overs, 230min) 202	Total (4 wickets, 71 overs, 230min) 202

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Pigott's progress, page 34
No sex please, page 35

GOLF: SECOND-ROUND 65 INSUFFICIENT TO BEAT CUT

Rose's recovery is nipped in the bud

FROM MEL WEBB IN HILVERSUM

HE HAS shown that he can run with champions: now he must learn to walk. As Justin Rose takes the first few faltering steps of his infant career as a professional golfer, he does not negotiate a day without being taught something, and the lessons he learnt yesterday were stark and salutary.

Rose, 18 next Thursday, enjoyed the ecstasy of a 65 to follow his humbling first-round 77 at the TNT Dutch Open, but then discovered that sometimes even the happy times can lead, inevitably and pitilessly, to the other kind.

Even as he sat and enjoyed the moment of his recovery from the nether regions of the field in his much-heralded maiden appearance in the paid ranks, the fact was brought home to him that there are many moments in the life of the touring professional that bring untold agony.

Rose's score, which included six birdies, left him on level par, a magnificent response to the crushing disappointment of the previous day, when errors that have not figured in his repertoire of late descended upon him like avenging angels. Yet, ironically, it was the very excellence of his score that brought on the attendant pain, in that his two-round score of 142 left him hovering painfully in the twilight zone between success and failure, the cut made or missed.

If he had managed to eke out two

more strokes from the course, he would have unquestionably been in the field for the last 36 holes, two worse would just as comfortably have sent him home to Hampshire for the weekend. If he had missed the bus by miles, at least he would have known his fate. As it was, he was left waiting, frustrated, at the front of the queue, not knowing whether he was to be allowed on board or not.

In the end, he missed out by a stroke, but, in many ways, it did not really matter which way the dice fell. It was not missing or making the cut that was important in itself, but the waiting: the endurance of the awful, inexorably slow advance of time, the dull ache in the pit of the stomach while others just as anxious played for — or against — the immediate future. It is not pleasant: but sometimes sport is not pleasant.

DETAILS

LEADERS AFTER TWO ROUNDS (Great Britain and Ireland unless stated): 122: L Westwood 63, 65; S Leary (Aus) 62, 63; 123: N Price (Zim) 68, 65; 124: J Lomas 65, 69; 125: P Leonard (Aus) 68, 67; P Walton 68, 67; B Langford (Can) 70, 65; S Stewart 65, 72; 126: S Jimenez (Esp) 69, 66; 126: C Rocca (It) 71, 65; S McLusker 68, 68; M Fary (Fr) 69, 67; P Heugden (Nor) 69, 71; J Jacubek (Cz) 68, 68; J Huston (US) 67, 69; 127: D Clarke 68, 69; D Robertson 72, 66; J Gerlach 68, 69; S Trevino (Mex) 70, 67; M Gomez (Cub) 70, 70; P Fulk (Swi) 71, 66; M Muland 70, 67; P Spilard (Swi) 67, 70; J McQuay 68, 71; 128: M Campbell (NZ) 73, 69; P Best 70, 69; D Clifford 71, 67. Other scores: 142: J Rose 77, 65.

Rose, natural-born optimist that he is, chose to take something positive from either result. "If I miss the cut, then it might be happening for a reason," he said before learning of his fate. "I could go home and have a couple of days' rest, which might be the best thing that could happen for me. But if I make the cut, I would be totally delighted."

Either way, he could look back on his second day's work with considerable satisfaction. "I wanted to follow up that 77 with a good round, not just in terms of the score, but to show that I could play better than that," he said. "I went out there to hit fairways and greens and play some good golf, then see what happened."

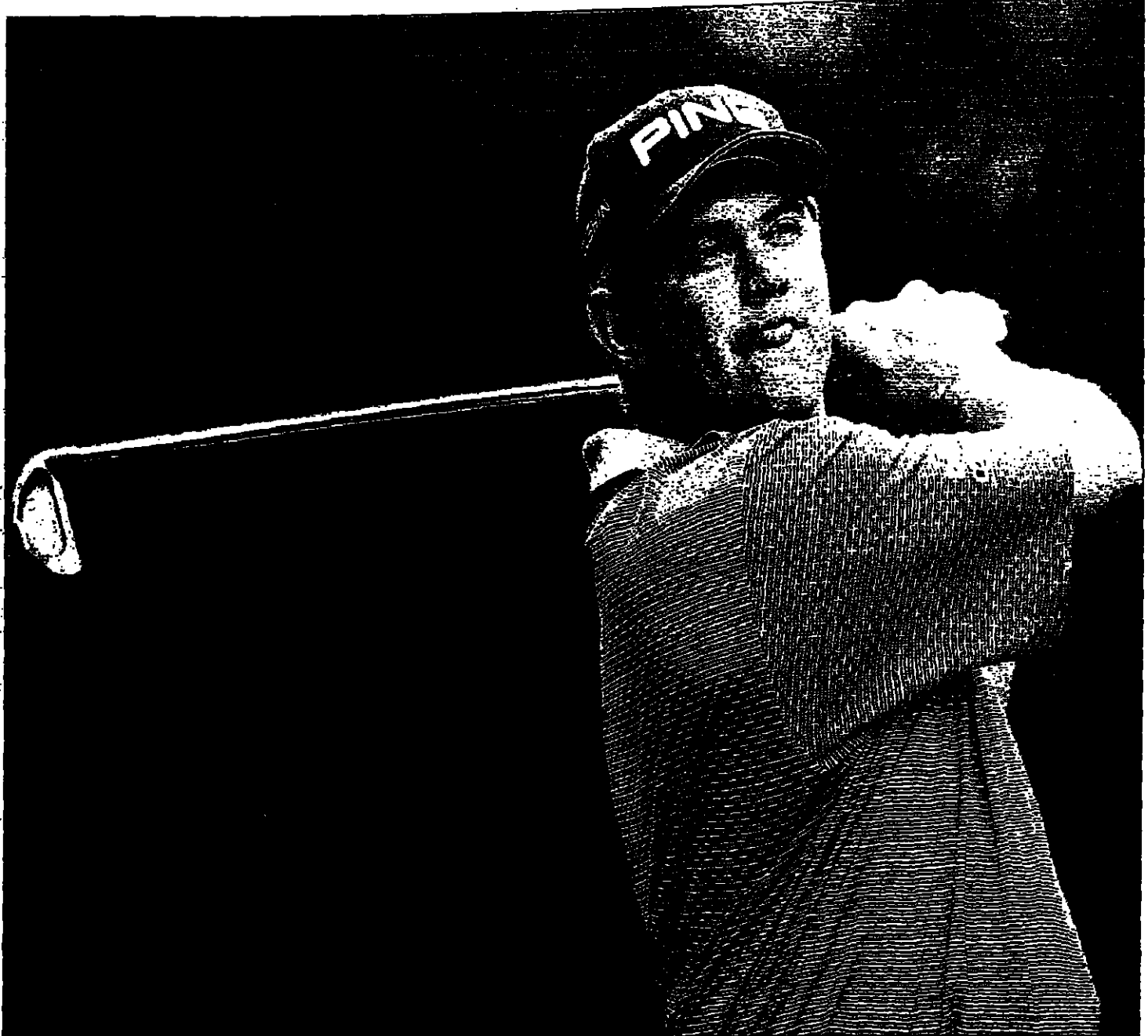
Understandably and rightly, he was proud of himself. "I think it's one of my strengths that I can come back," he said. "I enjoy having the opportunity to shoot up the field and get myself back into things. Adversity possibly brings out the best in me."

"I also learnt that the first round is possibly the most important round in pro golf. If you don't go out and shoot a low score, you've virtually no chance of winning the tournament and it also makes it difficult to make the cut. I guess I've been a bit of a slow starter in the past — that's something I need to improve on."

Room for improvement did not figure on the agenda of Lee Westwood, who only five years ago was as innocent as Rose is now about the facts of a sporting life. Westwood had a 66 to finish the day level with Stephen Leary on 129, 13 under par, completing the first half of the tournament without dropping a shot.

Westwood, who had five birdies, was characteristically relaxed about his round. "Everything was pretty consistent," he said. "Nothing outstanding, nothing average." This young fellow has the gift of making outstanding rounds of golf sound like a friendly stroll in the park, all power to him.

For all his slight air of insouciance, Westwood is a born competitor. "I don't need to prevent myself from being complemented, because I never think like that," he said. "I'm not bothered about leading, either, because that's what I play for. You're there to win, so if you get into that position, why be worried about it?" Why indeed? Young Mr Rose could do worse than pay heed to Westwood, golfer and sage. He might, just might, learn something to his advantage.



Iron man: Westwood, the joint leader, continues his sublime progress through the Dutch Open, where he is yet to yield a bogey

Davies on course to end ten-month losing run

LAURA DAVIES, of Great Britain, led the field after the second round of the Chrysler Open at Sjogarde, Gothenburg, yesterday. Going out early, a two-under-par 71, for a three-under-par total of 143, proved too much for her rivals as the weather deteriorated in the afternoon. No one else managed to break par.

The former world No 1 leads Karin Koch, of Sweden, and Karen Lunn, a former British Open champion from Australia, by one shot. Koch, the overnight leader, dropped three shots in the final six holes to finish with a 75.

"The conditions were really tough, and it was quite a battle," Davies said, "but now I'm feeling good for the weekend. I've never won in Sweden and I'm feeling much happier about my game than I was earlier in the season."

Davies, 34, now has her sights

set on ending a ten-month run without a win. "It has been a frustrating year," she said.

Alison Nicholas, another Briton and last year's US Open champion, had a second successive 73 in appalling conditions to finish just three strokes off the lead.

Michael Setterfield, 18, from Milford Haven, caused an upset when he won the Welsh boys championship at Llandudno. Setterfield defeated David Price, the former Glamorgan junior champion from Bargoed, by 3 and 2 in the 18-hole final.

Vikki Laing, from Musselburgh, won a thrilling Scottish girls championship final at Barassie yesterday. The 17-year-old junior Ryder Cup player won the title for the third year in a row by beating 18-year-old Laura Moffat (West Kilbride), the champion in 1995, at the 21st hole.

Bradley predicts rosy future

The solid wall of sound was deafening, the roars of acclaim enough to move even the stoniest heart. As Justin Rose walked up the 18th fairway of Royal Birkdale in the Open Championship on Sunday, the people rose as one. It was a stirring, moving time not only for Rose but also for the small, dark-haired man who walked by his side. For Stuart Bradley, Rose's caddie, it was the defining moment of his career.

Bradley, 31, is a small, neat Yorkshireman whose working relationship with Rose is barely three weeks old, but already the men have formed a powerful partnership in which Rose plays the shots and Bradley calls them.

Bradley had just finished a six-month stint working for Stephen Allan, the young Australian, when he fell into conversation with Rose and his family. He was intending to return to his home in Kent in

Mel Webb talks to the caddie who shared in Justin Rose's unlikely feat at Royal Birkdale

Bradley, who numbers Lee Westwood among his former employers — he carried the bag of Europe's leading young golfer for most of 1995 — has already experienced more notable events in his short spell with Rose than some of his contemporaries will do in a lifetime. He is full of enthusiasm for his youthful boss.

"He's a lovely lad to work for, and I'm glad to say we've got on very well," he said. "He knows his mind but is always prepared to listen to advice. His strengths, apart from having all the shots, are that he is very mature for his age and is incredibly positive about everything."

"If he drops a shot, he'll forget about it and set about getting it back on the next hole. I can't see anything to stop him from going right to the top. It would be nice to stay with him, but you learn not to take anything for granted in my job."



Bradley, left, calls the shots and Rose is good at playing them

ATHLETICS: HEIR TO CHRISTIE'S CROWN IS FORCED OUT OF EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS BY KNEE TROUBLE

Injury wrecks Mackie's dream

By DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

FOR Ian Mackie, the season may have ended last night. For Diane Modahl, it was just getting going. Mackie, among the main contenders to succeed Linford Christie as European 100 metres champion next month, is all but out of contention after withdrawing, injured, from the selection trials. Modahl, by contrast, looked smooth and comfortable in the 800 metres as she closed in on a place at the Commonwealth Games.

Only last Saturday, Mackie recorded 10.00sec at the Scottish championships. Although he achieved the time with wind assistance, it confirmed the Scot as a genuine challenger to win the European gold medal in Budapest in mid-August.

However, in the Bupa Grand Prix at Gateshead a day later, Mackie shut off the power shortly

before the finishing line as the knee trouble that had delayed his start to the season returned. It is the third successive summer that Mackie, 23, has been struck down by injury.

Two years ago, he reached the semi-finals of the Atlanta Olympics but had to suffer the disappointment of watching from the stands when a hamstring injury prevented him from taking his place. At the world championships in Athens last year, Mackie was eliminated while running with a cracked kneecap.

Last night at Birmingham, in the first session of the three-day Bupa AAA championships, which

form the selection trials for the European championships and Commonwealth Games, Mackie pulled out injured after aborting his warm-up. He said that he could not see himself recovering in time for Budapest and cast doubt over his prospects of going to Kuala Lumpur.

"I am so sick and fed up that I feel like packing it up for the season," Mackie said. "It seems to be constant, constant, constant. I have worked my backside off this winter. What is the point of training? Why am I bothering? I have trained all winter for this, in

the snow and rain. I have been so determined to make Budapest and get a medal."

Even if his knee clears up within a fortnight, which is how long he had been told in May to rest — advice that he ignored — he would not be race sharp to compete effectively in Budapest. "To win the Europeans, I would need to be running a few grand prix races over the next two or three weeks," Mackie said.

He said that he had rested from training all week, apart from one light session, and that the knee gave him no trouble when walk-

ing. "It was fine when I was jogging, but as soon as I started to stretch it was too sore," Mackie added.

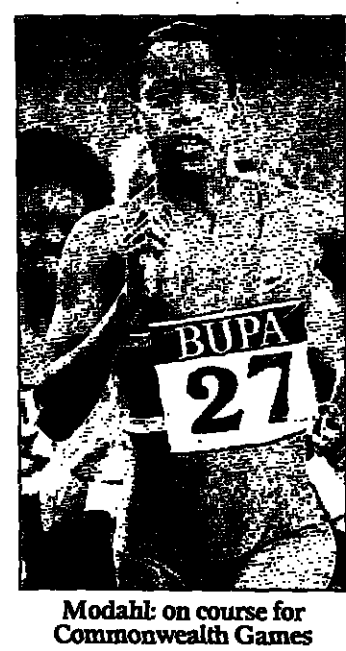
It would be a sensible compromise for Mackie to take a complete rest now in the hope that he might be fit for the Commonwealth Games in September. With regret in his voice, he said: "When I was told to rest, I was told to give it two weeks, but I gave it seven days," he said. "I was just too eager to come back."

It was at the last Commonwealth Games, four years ago, that Modahl was caught in a drugs controversy. She was sent home for failing a urine test but,

after proving her innocence, she was reinstated. Now the 1990 Commonwealth champion is seeking to "close the circle", as she puts it, on her harrowing experience in Victoria, Canada, by returning to the Games stage in Kuala Lumpur in September. She led her heat all the way last night and looks a strong contender to win the final today.

The long jump may have been the only final of the night but Nathan Morgan, 20, made it a good one. Morgan's winning jump was 8.11 metres, only 12 centimetres short of the British record set by Lynn Davies 30 years ago.

The Britain team for Budapest will be announced on Monday, followed by the England squad for the Commonwealth Games on Tuesday.



Modahl on course for Commonwealth Games

SHOOTING

Underwood heads British trophy charge

GREAT BRITAIN retained the Kolapore Cup at Bisle yesterday when the team of twelve scored 1,176 over the three short ranges to beat Canada into second place by 17 points, with Jersey third, another five points behind (a Correspondent writes).

Jon Underwood (Old Guildfordians) was top-scorer for Britain with an impressive 149, Paul Tremblay headed the Canadian scores with 148 and the top Jersey marksman was Colin Mallett, also on 148.

The House of Lords took the Maharajah of Vizianagram Trophy with a one-sided win over the Commons by a convincing margin of 32 points. Simon Bellither of Uppingham Veterans RC, a leading contender since his schooldays, had the strongest possible competition before he triumphed at the St George's Challenge Vase second stage, at 300 and 600 yards, with 150.22.

But today he has that competition again when the 100 best shoot at 900 yards for the trophy. Three others, David Luckman (Bath University), Jim Paton (Canada) and Lindsay Peden (OCCA) also scored 150, with lower V-scores, but they carry their scores forward to the final.

MOTOR SPORT

McRae challenges for lead in New Zealand

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

COLIN McRAE, who leads the world rally championship, got off to a good start yesterday in the New Zealand Rally, challenging Carlos Sainz for the early lead in the four-day event. Sainz, the former world champion in a Toyota, held a lead of 0.9sec after a treacherous first stage.

McRae, of Scotland, driving a Subaru, holds a five-point advantage over the Spaniard in the championship and both coped well with the 1.3-mile super special stage at Manukau, where torrential downpours over the past few weeks and continuous rain have made driving conditions difficult.

Juha Kankkunen, the Finn who won the event in 1986, had said before the start that the conditions appeared drier than he had expected in the circumstances. He was sixth-fastest in his Ford, just under three seconds behind Sainz.

Tommi Makinen, the Finnish world champion, has crashed on his past three outings in New Zealand and again struggled to come to terms with the slippery conditions, finishing more than five seconds adrift of the leader. Richard Burns, the Englishman driving a Mitsubishi, was ninth. Rickard Rydell maintained his

dominance of the Auto Trader RAC British Touring Car championship (BTCC) by setting the fastest time in official testing for tomorrow's races at Snetterton. The Swede, who leads the championship after 14 rounds, shrugged off a sore back to record an average speed of more than 102mph and lead the time sheets in preparation for two rounds at the Norfolk circuit.

"Obviously I'm pleased, but with just fractions of a second separating all the front-runners, one small mistake could cost you 10 places on the grid, so qualifying itself tomorrow is going to be incredibly close," Rydell said. With 16 cars separated by less than a second in yesterday's testing, Rydell has good cause for concern.

David Leslie, the British driver, celebrated the news that he will be staying with Nissan to contest the BTCC next year by setting the second-fastest time. Nissan confirmed yesterday that Leslie and Anthony Reid would be staying with the team. Both drivers have tasted victory this season and although Rydell enjoys a healthy 46-point lead in the 25-race series, the Nissan pair still have hopes of taking the title.

SWIMMING

Smith drugs verdict delayed

FROM CRAIG LORD IN LAUSANNE

Hotel where Juan Antonio Samaranch, the International Olympic Committee president, keeps an apartment, Smith, 28, from Rathcoole, near Dublin, looked drawn and stony-faced as she entered for the hearing. After the proceedings, in which Lennon was allowed to make a presentation before the doping panel put questions to the swimmer, Smith left the hotel through a side entrance and was not available for comment.

The case against Smith is that she put alcohol in her urine sample

in contravention of the rule that disallows anything that would interfere with the validity of a drug test. The testers she provided the sample to in January, Al and Kay Guy, were not asked to attend the hearing in spite of a request to do so from their lawyer.

Fina yesterday also imposed two-year suspensions on each of the four Chinese swimmers who tested positive for the diuretic Triamterene, which is capable of masking performance-enhancing substances, at the world championships in Australia in January. The three women, Luna Wang, Cai Huijue, world championship medal winners, and Yi Zhang, and Wang Wei, silver medal winner at the world short-course championships last year, will have their suspensions backdated to January 14, when the tests were taken.

Their case had been delayed because the solicitors in the case, Duan & Duan, the first legal team to represent Chinese swimmers in a country that has produced more than 20 anabolic steroid cases this decade, had "new facts" to light. These facts, including independent analyses of the urine samples that claimed that the original result was wrong, were not accepted yesterday. Charles Duan, the solicitor, was due to appeal to the Court of Arbitration for Sport in Lausanne last night.



Smith tense

HOCKEY

Series tied as Nicol makes England pay

SOUTH AFRICA turned the tables on England with a 4-0 victory in Pretoria last night to level the five-match series at 1-1 with one match to play tomorrow (Sydney Friskin writes).

Greg Nicol scored all of South Africa's goals and rightly earned the man-of-the-match award. He put the finishing touch to an early attack to score the first goal in the fourth minute and from that moment South Africa never looked back.

The lead was increased in the 23rd minute, shortly after Lewis had made a splendid save from Nicol. Five minutes into the second half Nicol scored the third goal to tighten South Africa's grip on the match. However, a diving save by Myburgh deprived England of a goal a minute later.

Nicol completed the scoring in the 49th minute by converting a short corner and several saves by Lewis spared England further embarrassment. Their defence, however, was weakened by the absence of stomach-upset victim Garrard.

Barry Dancer, the England coach, said: "This was a comprehensive loss. We started poorly and could not adjust quickly enough."

SAILING
Dutch red team has edge in light airs

THE 23rd day of the Volvo Ocean Race saw the Dutch team, skippered by Henk de Boer, take a lead over the British team, skippered by Ian Preece, in the final leg of the race. The Dutch team, on the yacht 'The Dutchman', was 100 miles ahead of the British team, on the yacht 'The Britishman', at the start of the day. The Dutch team's lead was further extended as they sailed faster than the British team in the light airs. The British team is expected to catch up with the Dutch team in the next few days.

السؤال الأول

Mansell plays agony aunt to put worried McLaren driver back on track

Coulthard steered in right direction

FROM KEVIN EASON
IN SILVERSTONE

FIVE minutes in the company of the most unlikely agony aunt in Formula One has helped to renew David Coulthard's belief in himself and his ability to be a grand prix winner. Nigel Mansell, the 1992 world champion, took it upon himself to administer comforting words to stop the Scottish driver from descending any further into the despair that has threatened to overwhelm his career.

Mansell took Coulthard aside to emphasise the virtue of patience, pointing out that it took five years for him to win a grand prix and 12 seasons before he was crowned champion at the age of 39. Whatever Mansell said worked, for Coulthard emerged for practice at the Austrian Grand Prix yesterday a changed person. The jaunty smile and wisecracks have been replaced by a more reflective young man who has decided that the distractions of fame will, in future, have to come second to his work as a racing driver. He climbed from his McLaren Mercedes as the fastest man of the day and with that famous jawline set firm.

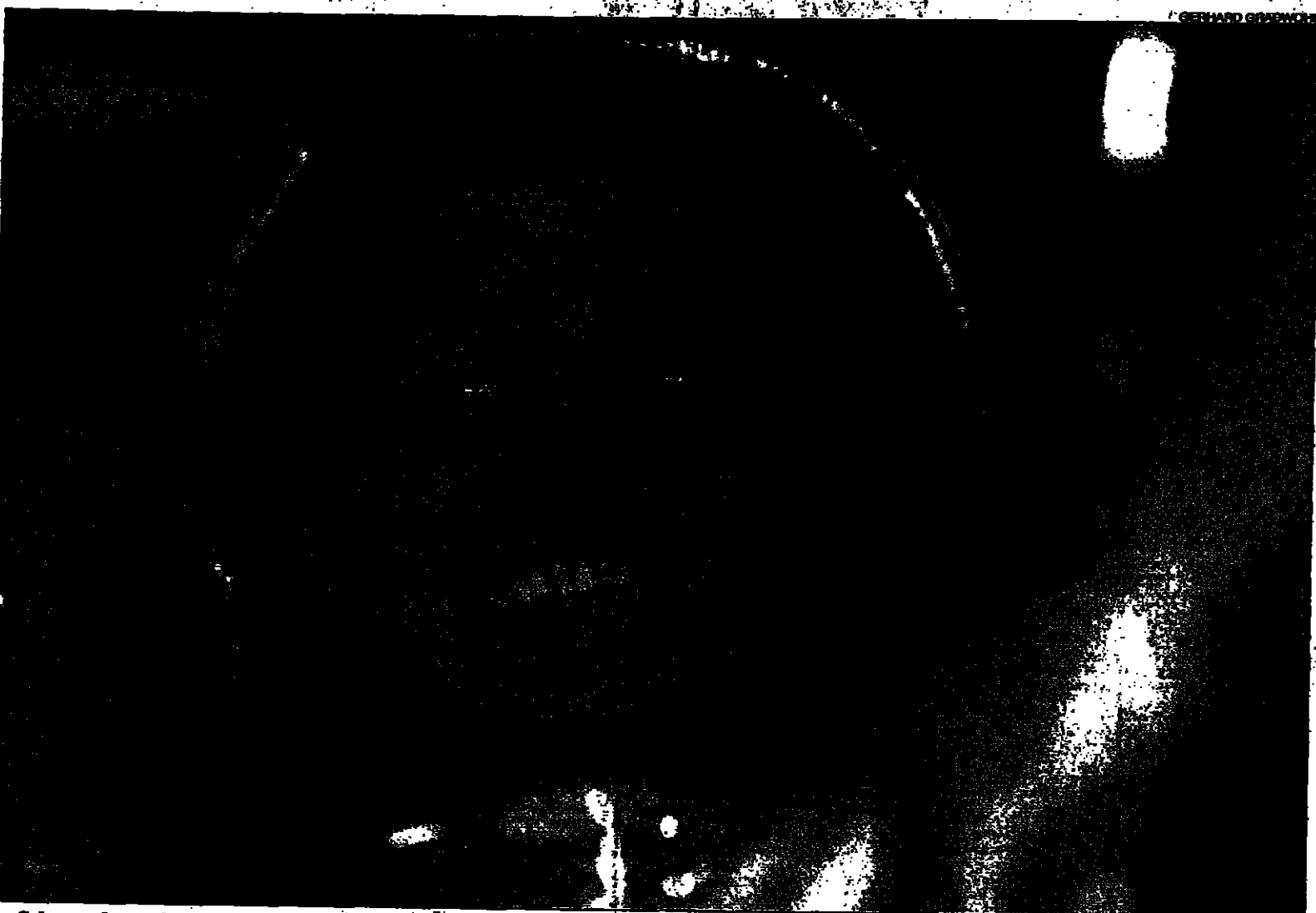
Through the smile has gone temporarily, Coulthard is calmer and more philosophical about the tough luck that the Formula One fates have thrown at him after discussing his season with Mansell when they met by chance at a charity golf event. Their fireside chat came the day after Coulthard, 27, had spun out of a British Grand Prix that he was desperate to win and was devastated to have finished in such an ignominious fashion.

"I had a chat with Nigel, who had probably more bad luck than any other British driver, and he basically told me to keep my head and keep on with what I am doing, that things would come right, if not this year, then next," Coulthard said.

"This is a guy I looked up to when I was younger. I admired his determination and to get to speak to someone who has been through it all helps to put a bit of perspective on it."

Coulthard's run of just one point in four races has wrecked his hopes of being Formula One champion this year but, the Silverstone spin apart, his woes have been caused, in the main, by a series of mechanical glitches.

He admitted that the sheer pressure of being the new hope of British grand prix racing had made it worse, particularly at an emotional Silverstone. "I had a good long



Schumacher enjoys a rare moment of relaxation in his Ferrari yesterday during practice for the Austrian Grand Prix in Zeltweg tomorrow

think after what happened at Silverstone," he said. "I came to the conclusion that I am being paid to drive cars very quickly, and to win grand prix, and the only way to do that is by keeping a clear mind and concentrating on driving the car instead of worrying about other factors."

"I am just taking a step back and trying to smile getting in the car, instead of thinking: 'I have got to get it, I have got to get it this weekend', because that isn't how I started the year and the start of the year went not too badly."

"Things start to stack up and I got more frustrated with each failure. I was so frustrated at Silverstone after qualifying, and after the race I was beside myself. In the end, I have to go on with an open mind. I know that if I drive well and everything is fine on the engineering side, we can be on the podium."

Coulthard needs to be this weekend if he is to stand a chance of resurrecting his season, but the paddock was littered with men desperate to prove themselves yesterday.

This is the time of year when team managers look around for new talent and, with the futures of Jacques Villeneuve and Michael Schumacher confirmed, more than a few drivers are wondering which car they will be sitting in next season.

Not least of those is Johnny Herbert, whose tenure at

Sauber has been upset by the introduction of Jean-Alain, the volatile Frenchman. Their frosty relationship split over at Silverstone when Herbert appeared to refuse to move over to allow his team-mate through, incurring the wrath of Peter Sauber, the team owner. Speculation is growing that Heinz-Harald Frentzen

will leave Williams and return to Sauber. Peter Sauber did not rule out change yesterday, saying that he was listening to an approach from another driver. That makes it all the more important that Herbert performs well in Austria, he started in positive fashion yesterday by posting the fourth-quickest time of the

day, half a second faster than Alesi. "I want to show people how good I am," he said, "and I have to do that on the track. The season has been up and down but I can get things under way again here. I am happy at Sauber, though I am talking to a few people. I think the picture for next year will be rosy."

As it might be for Villeneuve, who took to his Williams yesterday knowing that next year he will be a member of the fledgling British American Racing Team. Thirteenth in practice only confirmed what he has known all along this season: that he cannot win a race on merit in a Williams this year. So the time to move on was right.

If that was not bad enough for Williams, there was more. Asked if Jock Clear, his race engineer, would also leave to join him, Villeneuve replied: "Why not? We get on well and I would love him to go."

Which leaves Williams scrambling the transition for two drivers and an engine. Applications: now, to the Zeltweg circuit.

Driver	Points	Wins	Podiums	Points per race
Michael Schumacher	10	0	0	2.5
David Coulthard	10	0	0	2.5
Jacques Villeneuve	10	0	0	2.5
Heinz-Harald Frentzen	10	0	0	2.5
Johnny Herbert	10	0	0	2.5
Other drivers	0-9	0	0	0-2.5

Driver	Time	Gap
1. D. Coulthard (GB)	1:14.755	-
2. G. Fisichella (I)	1:15.204	+0.449
3. M. Salazar (E)	1:15.242	+0.487
4. J. Villeneuve (C)	1:15.251	+0.496
5. R. Barrichello (B)	1:15.252	+0.497
6. M. Schumacher (D)	1:15.253	+0.498
7. J. Herbert (GB)	1:15.254	+0.499
8. J. Alesi (F)	1:15.255	+0.500
9. H. Frentzen (D)	1:15.256	+0.501
10. J. Agazzi (I)	1:15.257	+0.502
11. A. Zanardi (I)	1:15.258	+0.503
12. C. Agnew (GB)	1:15.259	+0.504
13. J. Montoya (C)	1:15.260	+0.505
14. R. Barrichello (B)	1:15.261	+0.506
15. J. Herbert (GB)	1:15.262	+0.507
16. J. Villeneuve (C)	1:15.263	+0.508
17. M. Salazar (E)	1:15.264	+0.509
18. M. Schumacher (D)	1:15.265	+0.510
19. S. Badoer (I)	1:15.266	+0.511
20. P. Dini (I)	1:15.267	+0.512
21. J. Agazzi (I)	1:15.268	+0.513
22. R. Barrichello (B)	1:15.269	+0.514
23. J. Herbert (GB)	1:15.270	+0.515
24. J. Villeneuve (C)	1:15.271	+0.516
25. M. Salazar (E)	1:15.272	+0.517
26. M. Schumacher (D)	1:15.273	+0.518
27. J. Agazzi (I)	1:15.274	+0.519
28. J. Herbert (GB)	1:15.275	+0.520
29. J. Villeneuve (C)	1:15.276	+0.521
30. M. Salazar (E)	1:15.277	+0.522

SAILING

Dutch red team has edge in light airs

By EDWARD GORMAN
SAILING CORRESPONDENT

THE 27-strong Rolex Commodore's Cup fleet faced a long and testing night in light airs as it completed the 28-hour Channel Race on a fleet-course that planned to take the crews out towards Poole and Weymouth and then back into the eastern Solent via the Nab Tower to the finish this morning.

The 175-mile race, which began off Cowes at 11.30am yesterday and which is also being sailed by Royal Ocean Racing Club yachts not entered in the Commodore's Cup, is the most important element in the Cup series, carrying a bigger weighting in the points than any other race.

The ranking order of the teams going into the race was changed late on Thursday night, with the leading place going to the Dutch red team after a protest involving the German red team small boat, Topas, which was demoted five places in the second race on Thursday. This had the effect of pushing the Germans back into the second place overall.

At the second mark of the course yesterday, 17 miles down the track, the fleet positions were such that the Dutch red team of *Checkmate 3*, *Salty Dog* and *Negenentwintig*, were still the overall leaders. At a point 25 miles into the race, close to St Alban Head, the leaders on the water were *Reckless*, the Dutch green team big boat, followed by *Checkmate 3*, and *Heve*, the German red team big boat.

After a rest day tomorrow, the series continues with two more inshore races on Monday.

RUGBY LEAGUE: SHARKS COMPOUND THE MISERY AT END OF DIFFICULT WEEK

Hull wear down angry Giants

Huddersfield Giants 10
Hull Sharks 21

By CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

LIFE after Garry Schofield is no better for Huddersfield Giants. Phil Weivers, Schofield's erstwhile assistant who wants the coaching job full time, faces a huge task as the bottom club in the JJB Super League slumped to a twelfth defeat in 14 outings after a promising start at Gateshead International Stadium last night.

The 4,306 crowd was 184 more than for the first match in the North East in the "on the road" series. Hull Sharks snuffed out the tiring Giants in the second period and confident finishing by Campbell, Johnson and Lester provided only their fifth win.

Andy Goodway, the Wigan assistant, has reportedly declined Huddersfield's job offer. With Schofield claiming

constructive dismissal after being stood down as coach last Monday and the players also irate, the Giants' preparation for this match was less than ideal.

Not that it showed under the pressure Hull were subjected to in the first half. Huddersfield, directing their anger into performance, were good value for a 10-4 lead at the break.

Hull, despite superior possession, found themselves thwarted as Huddersfield refused to yield, apart from conceding two straightforward penalties by Prescott. Although he missed an early attempt at goal, Cook succeeded in punishing some slack discipline by Stephenson, who was caught ball-stealing, and Ireland, who shouldered-charged Weston, with two penalties from 35 metres.

Neil Harmon, who Bradford Bulls hope to sign next week, demonstrated the strong running and smart hands that Huddersfield will

sorely miss. The experienced prop forward set up the position from which Arnold, nipping down the blind side of a ruck, banged aside three tacklers for the opening try in the sixteenth minute.

Within two minutes of the restart, Huddersfield's guard was down and the Sharks were level after a superb try

and touchline conversion by Prescott that was worthy of a chorus of *Old Faithful* by the Hull travelling support.

Hepi, a hugely creative influence at loose forward, broke off a scrum on halfway. Prescott came into the line from full back and three changes of direction by Campbell, not normally a centre, bamboozled the remnants of the Giants' rearguard.

Having survived the first ten minutes with Wittenberg

in the sin bin for a professional foul, Huddersfield again fell prey to Hull's pace, as Murdoch primed his back line and Hepi's inside pass to Busby blew open the opposition cover for Johnson to give Hull the lead for the first time after 62 minutes.

With the spark in Huddersfield's attack also having gone, Murdoch made sure of the victory with a dropped goal. The icing came from another electric try by Campbell, whose inside pass found the supporting Lester. Prescott had no bother with the conversion.

SCORERS: Huddersfield: Garry Heir, Arnold, Goshie, Cook, Ed, Phil, Stephenson, Johnson, Lester, Goshie, Prescott (4). Dropped goal: Murdoch.

HULL SHARKS: S. Prescott, F. Sui, I. Campbell, A. Hepi, M. Johnson, G. Lester, C. Murdoch, M. Goodway, D. Stephenson, J. Tani, S. Booth, S. Owen, B. Hepi, S. Stephenson, A. Ireland, M. Schmitt, G. Heine, D. Busby.

Huddersfield: G. Arnold, P. Cook, P. Weston, D. Hooper, A. Chesterton, C. Or, S. Booth, M. Harmon, G. Russell, J. Field, J. Wittenberg, D. King, M. Sains, S. Stephenson, J. Burnay, J. Barry, B. Richards, P. Robinson. Referee: K. Kirkpatrick. Photo: G. Jones.

BOWLS

Both ends of the age spectrum sampled

By DAVID RYAN JONES

THE notion that bowls, which is still sometimes dismissed as "old man's marbles", is really a game for all ages, was illustrated by the exploits this week of Amy Gowshall in Lincolnshire and Ted Hayward in Sussex.

Gowshall made her first appearance at Royal Leamington Spa in 1993, when, as a precocious 14-year-old, she reached the final of the national triples championship.

Now 19, and a real force to be reckoned with, she will be back there on August 4 as one of the Lincolnshire skips in the semi-finals of the inter-county double ring championship, after Lincolnshire defeated a strong Cumbria side, 46-34, at Mafferton on Thursday.

While it was Penny Strong's quartet who struck out for victory, Gowshall, a student at Leeds University, played a cunning defensive game and kept her defeat at the hands of Kath Baxter to just one shot at 22-21.

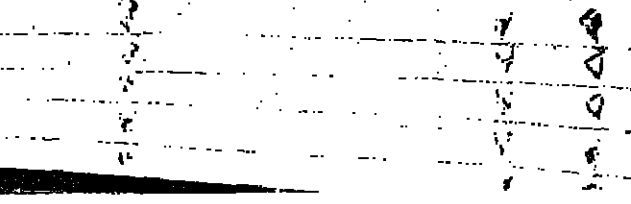
Hayward's achievement in beating Ian Watson, 21-16, in the Sussex semi-finals, to qualify for the national singles championships in Worthing next month, will have followers of bowls scanning the record books for details of his previous triumphs there.

Those with long memories may recall that England won the world outdoor fours championship at Worthing's Beach House Park 26 years ago, and that E. H. Hayward played third man in the 1972 gold medal-winning quartet.

Hayward was then 37. Astonishingly, at 73, he is not the oldest competitor in the national singles. Les Fisher, from Devon, is 74.

GRAND PRIX 1998: HOW THEY STAND FOR AUSTRIA

WEST McLAREN MERCEDES Position: 1 Points: 96 1998 best: 1	WEST McLAREN MERCEDES Position: 2 Points: 86 1998 best: 2
SCUDERIA FERRARI MARLBORO Position: 2 Points: 55 1998 best: 1	SCUDERIA FERRARI MARLBORO Position: 4 Points: 23 1998 best: 2
WORLD SEVEN BRITTON PLAYLIFE Position: 3 Points: 32 1998 best: 1	WORLD SEVEN BRITTON PLAYLIFE Position: 5 Points: 15 1998 best: 2
WINFIELD WILLIAMS Position: 4 Points: 15 1998 best: 1	WINFIELD WILLIAMS Position: 6 Points: 11 1998 best: 3
STEWART FORD Position: 5 Points: 11 1998 best: 1	STEWART FORD Position: 7 Points: 6 1998 best: 5
SAUBER PETRONAS Position: 6 Points: 10 1998 best: 1	SAUBER PETRONAS Position: 8 Points: 6 1998 best: 6
JANHA ARDENNE Position: 7 Points: 6 1998 best: 1	JANHA ARDENNE Position: 9 Points: 4 1998 best: 6
JORDAN MUGEN-HONDA Position: 8 Points: 4 1998 best: 1	JORDAN MUGEN-HONDA Position: 10 Points: 3 1998 best: 4
PROST PEUGEOT Position: 9 Points: 3 1998 best: 1	PROST PEUGEOT Position: 11 Points: 2 1998 best: 5
TYRRELL FORD Position: 10 Points: 2 1998 best: 1	TYRRELL FORD Position: 12 Points: 1 1998 best: 11
BERNARDI TEAM Position: 11 Points: 1 1998 best: 1	BERNARDI TEAM Position: 13 Points: 1 1998 best: 1
MINI ROSSIGNOL Position: 12 Points: 1 1998 best: 1	MINI ROSSIGNOL Position: 14 Points: 1 1998 best: 1
AGIP Position: 13 Points: 1 1998 best: 1	AGIP Position: 15 Points: 1 1998 best: 1
AGIP Position: 14 Points: 1 1998 best: 1	AGIP Position: 16 Points: 1 1998 best: 1
AGIP Position: 15 Points: 1 1998 best: 1	AGIP Position: 17 Points: 1 1998 best: 1
AGIP Position: 16 Points: 1 1998 best: 1	AGIP Position: 18 Points: 1 1998 best: 1
AGIP Position: 17 Points: 1 1998 best: 1	AGIP Position: 19 Points: 1 1998 best: 1
AGIP Position: 18 Points: 1 1998 best: 1	AGIP Position: 20 Points: 1 1998 best: 1
AGIP Position: 19 Points: 1 1998 best: 1	AGIP Position: 21 Points: 1 1998 best: 1
AGIP Position: 20 Points: 1 1998 best: 1	AGIP Position: 22 Points: 1 1998 best: 1
AGIP Position: 21 Points: 1 1998 best: 1	AGIP Position: 23 Points: 1 1998 best: 1
AGIP Position: 22 Points: 1 1998 best: 1	AGIP Position: 24 Points: 1 1998 best: 1
AGIP Position: 23 Points: 1 1998 best: 1	AGIP Position: 25 Points: 1 1998 best: 1
AGIP Position: 24 Points: 1 1998 best: 1	AGIP Position: 26 Points: 1 1998 best: 1
AGIP Position: 25 Points: 1 1998 best: 1	AGIP Position: 27 Points: 1 1998 best: 1
AGIP Position: 26 Points: 1 1998 best: 1	AGIP Position: 28 Points: 1 1998 best: 1
AGIP Position: 27 Points: 1 1998 best: 1	AGIP Position: 29 Points: 1 1998 best: 1
AGIP Position: 28 Points: 1 1998 best: 1	AGIP Position: 30 Points: 1 1998 best: 1



THE RACE ON TELEVISION AND RADIO: Qualifying Today 11.40 Races Tomorrow 12.20pm (Sat), 30.30pm (Highlights) RACE: Race live in Sunday Sport on BBC Radio 5 Live

Dumbing down causes ripples across the pond

Letter from London

Scott C. Fairchild, writer-at-large for the Poughkeepsie Tribune, has spent the past two months in London. He filed this report last week.

London is a long way from Poughkeepsie, in every sense. The weather is westerly, the water virtually undrinkable, and the food curious — yes, the old jokes ring true. However, the beer, ale I should say, is surprisingly good — and there is plenty else in this old, moth-eaten country to cherish.

There is much to enjoy and admire about British life — or perhaps I should say English life, since the constituent roots of the old kingdom have withered. The English people I've met don't seem too bothered. As an old friend told me the other day: "If the Scots and the Welsh want independence, fine. So long as they realise that independence means precisely that."

The English are essentially a tolerant people, particularly if you compare them with the various mobs across the Channel. Live and let live, and an Englishman's home is his castle: there's a lot to be said for those clichés. They may be placid, the older ones at any rate, but they are not to be taken for granted. As another American journalist wrote 50 years ago, the English can be relied upon to fall at every hurdle — except the last. They are funny, in an understated, ironic way that doesn't always cross the pond, and they are sympathetic to others less fortunate than themselves. So why am I concerned about them?

First, they do not appear to hold themselves in high regard. Oh yes, there was a lot of hoopla about Cool Britannia, an idea that has run its course, thankfully, but that was only ever a PR stunt devised by trendy young people for circulation among their peers. Underneath there is an undercurrent of self-loathing that, to American eyes, is puzzling; disturbing, even. Take the way these people refer to themselves as "Brits". Do we ever refer to ourselves as "Yanks"? I think not.

Second, there is an alarming ignorance, not just of their own history, but of the institutions that

MICHAEL HENDERSON



it has already gone, you need only follow the English obsession with sports, and with one sport in particular. These are not games we play, though they could say the same of our games, and with rather more justification. The World Cup — that's soccer, folks! — passed us by. Over here, it assumed a greater importance than anything. If Zeus himself had left Mount Olympus, and spent the summer walking round London in his birthday suit, he would have passed unobserved. All eyes were on the little ball game.

Now, I know that sports can bring out base emotions in people, though Americans are shocked deeply by the way soccer touches its fans. We don't have hoodlums in our sporting arenas, so we can't understand how that potent exerts its ferocious effect. But, believe you me, thousands of ordinary people were under its spell as though they had lost all sense of reason.

Nationalism, more pernicious by far than common or garden patriotism, raised its ugly head, aided by the less respectable parts of the media, who see every match as Us against Them, Britons against outsiders. Even Wimbledon can't escape the grasp of those who would reduce everything to a perverted virility test.

In England today, following soccer has come to be regarded as the highest form of cultural activity, and it has fostered a partisanship that is ugly. Anthony Burgess, the English novelist (who chose to live in Monte Carlo), thought that only in his country was brutality of speech seen as a victory for democracy. To be stupid is to be clever, and football is the secular rite of worship that brings communicants together.

A country that has given so much to the world has no need for an amplified assertion of its identity. It is as though sport, which brings with it an avalanche of prejudice, is the only thing that matters to people, particularly the impressionable and the disaffected young. For those who grew up with a different notion of what this country held dear — it gave us our language and our entire intellectual inheritance — it is desperately sad.

Danny Baker is away



Local favourite Randall's run-out by Marsh, after a mix-up with Boycott, in the third Test of 1977, is part of Trent Bridge folklore

Lazy days beside the lovely Trent

Trent Bridge is the odd one out among English grounds. It is a Test ground in the country. Physically, it may be in a city, albeit on the county side of the Trent, but you never feel hemmed in. There is a sense of space, and the white of the handsome pavilion and the public seating, set against the lush green outfield, makes it a most pleasant spot. This is a place to read the papers, eat a pie, or doze off. In an age of stadiums, it remains recognisably a cricket ground.

Cardus, who loved the place, wrote: "Of all the large cricket grounds it is the homeliest and pleasantest." In the words of Alistair, "it is late in the day when Trent Bridge is at its loveliest, for then the air seems full of a deep-sea light, reflected by the sun off the velvety green of the turf."

It is an evocative place to watch cricket. This is where, in 1899, Grace played his last innings for England, and Wilfred Rhodes played his first. It is where Stan McCabe made his celebrated 232 in 1938, when Bradman told his Australia players to join him on the balcony to watch batting of a kind they might never see again. From an English point of view it was also a significant match because Hutton and Compton scored their maiden

Test hundreds. Great events in recent years, though, are few. Graeme Pollock made his famous 125 there in 1965, and Ian Botham announced himself against Australia in 1977, immediately showing his golden arm by dismissing Greg Chappell with a long hop. That was the game in which Geoffrey Boycott returned to the Test team, after three years of self-imposed exile, and ran out Derek Randall, the

local favourite. This week Sir Garfield Sobers opened the new stand at the Radcliffe Road end, which towers over the ground like the Matterhorn. It is massive, reminding one at first of a giant Waitrose, but it has not destroyed the harmony of the ground. Given time and goodwill, it will grow in the public imagination.

Trent Bridge remains the friendliest Test ground in England, which should surprise nobody who knows Nottingham. This is a city — it feels more like a town — that is well-equipped in most aspects of life and where people are not easily impressed. They like their sport, but they are not mad about it.

Brian Clough, when he managed Nottingham Forest, thought it was apathy. To others it shows maturity. It is never a hardship to visit Trent Bridge.

THE summer game is in the doghouse. Players, administrators, writers and spectators wonder why. A heartfelt letter arrived recently from Edinburgh. This is part of it.

"Although I am keen on all the major sports, I have always found Test cricket the most absorbing game to watch, and used to attend at least one Test match a year — until five years ago when I decided that it really wasn't worth travelling south and spending £25 on a ticket to be surrounded by the (large) minority of exhibitionist oafs who believe they are the main attraction rather than the cricket. At its mildest, several regarded individuals feel the need to wave placards stating the obvious when someone hits a boundary while, at its worst, drink-fuelled morose chant incessantly.

"At the risk of sounding like an 'old fart,' the civilised atmosphere which prevailed (for the second Test at Lord's) reminded me of the first Test match I went to — in 1963. The only discordant note to me was the vulgar 'celebration' of his hard-earned century by Nasser Hussain. It was so undignified, tasteless and unnecessary, and contrasted very badly with Jonty Rhodes's gracious acknowledgement of his hundred. As Ramprakash was fined for physical and verbal dissent breaching the International Cricket Council code of conduct on being given out, is it not possible for vulgar behaviour to be similarly reprimanded? Mind you, when there are frantic, exaggerated and — in many cases — totally dishonest appeals for virtually anything these days, I appreciate that dignified, sporting behaviour is a thing of the past."

Ring any bells?

Cricket put Cardus on write lines

For those who write on music, as well as cricket, there is no escaping the shadow of Sir Neville Cardus. One of the things I am happy to claim is that when I was introduced many moons ago in Berlin to the late Denis Rattle, father of the blessed Sir Simon, and he found out that I wrote about cricket, he exclaimed: "Aha, a new Cardus!"

Poking round the bookstall at Cheltenham last week I came across a copy of Cardus's last book, *Full Score*, which was published in 1970, and was good value for £8. It was a timely reminder

of what a remarkable man he was, though that assessment does not meet with universal approval today. He is accused of many things, including snobbery, and, in the sense that he thought great music and literature were things that enriched all lives, and that to understand them took a little longer than five minutes, then he was a snob. Perhaps we could do with more snobbery.

He would probably agree with Ved Mehta, the writer sacked by Tina Brown from the *New Yorker*, when she tried to make the magazine more sexy. In a revealing

interview last week, Mehta referred to "a proletarian culture where nobody wants to do anything different". Or, as Gilbert put it: "When everybody's somebody, then nobody's anybody."

Of course, Cardus is too rich for modern taste. He lived in an age that moved along different lines. To say of him, as a celebrated sports journalist did on a radio programme last year, that his writing had nothing to do with "the street", reveals a lot about modern life. Neither Evelyn Waugh nor F. Scott Fitzgerald, two of the finest writers of this century, had anything to do with

the street, unless the streets in question were St James's and Park Avenue. "The street", indeed! What rot Cardus came from it, and, unlike people who didn't, he never wanted to go back.

To re-read him, and think of his life, is to marvel at a man who lived by his own lights and served his loves, of which cricket and music were the most obvious, by helping to bring their delights to countless thousands of others. Those who have followed him can take pride in the fact that, of all games, cricket is the one that nurtured him. It is the only one that could have.

Tait ready to add to list of triumphs

By Jenny MacArthur

BLYTH TAIT and Ready Teddy, the Olympic three-day event champions, head a talented cast at the Pedigree Chum Cornbury Park Horse Trials at Chartybury in Oxfordshire this weekend.

The event, which many leading riders are using as part of their preparations for the world championships in October, has a 500-strong field that includes Andrew Hoy and Matt Ryan, Olympic gold medal winners from Australia, and Bruce Davidson, the United States' dual world champion.

GUIDE TO THE WEEKEND FIXTURES

Today	
CRICKET	Fourth Cornhill Test match 11.0, third day of five, 50 overs minimum TRENT BRIDGE: England v South Africa
Vodafone Challenge Series	11.0, second day of four LEICESTER: Leicestershire v Sri Lanka
Britannic Assurance county championships	11.0, first day of four, 50 overs minimum COLWYN BAY: Glamorgan v Lancashire
CHELTENHAM: Gloucestershire v Surrey	12.0, first day of four, 50 overs minimum NORTHAMPTON: Northamptonshire v Derbyshire
EDGBASTON: Warwickshire v Essex	11.0, third day of four, 104 overs minimum
FOOTBALL	PRE-SEASON MATCHES (kick-off 8.0 unless stated): Andrie v Hartlepool (1.0); Barnack v Gateshead (1.0); Birmingham v Manchester Utd; Barnham Wood v Nottingham Forest; Bradford v Derby; Bromsgrove v Coventry; Cambridge Utd v Northampton; Celtic v Tottenham; Colchester v Kingston (1.30); Crawley Town v Brighton; Derry City v Portlaoine; Haverhill v Slavia; Kettering v Ipswich; Kilburn City v Brentford (1.30); Livingston v Reading (12.45); Motherwell v West Ham; Norwich v Rochdale; Partick v Le Havre; St Patrick's Athletic v Bolton; Walsley v Millwall; Worthing v Chelston; Yeovil v Sunderland; Dover v Barnet.
RUGBY LEAGUE	JJB Super League Castleford v Warrington (at Cardiff, 6.05)
OTHER SPORT	ATHLETICS: AAA championships (in Birmingham); CYCLING: National track championships (in Manchester, 10.0 and 7.0); SPEEDWAY: Elite League: Belle Vue v Coventry (7.30); Oxford v Poole (7.45); Premier League: Isle of Wight v Glasgow (7.30)
Tomorrow	Fourth Cornhill Test match 11.0, fourth day of five, 50 overs minimum TRENT BRIDGE: England v South Africa

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An Inspector Calls The National Theatre's production of J. B. Priestley's thrilling play has won more awards than any other in the West End. Garrick Theatre, £24.50 eve Mon-Thurs, mat Wed and Sat, Sept 1-Sept 30.

The Real Inspector Hound Black Comedy Two classic one-act comedies, by Tom Stoppard and Peter Shaffer, play hilariously with theatrical convention. Comedy Theatre, £25 eve Mon-Thur, mat Wed, Sat, Aug 1-Sept 10.

Grease by Sarah Kane, author of *Blasted* and *Cleansed*, charts the disintegration of the human mind under the pressures of love, loss and desire. Royal Court Theatre Upstairs, £10 eve Tue-Thur, mat Sat, Sept 8-Oct 3 (not Sept 10).

Wo Deharsan David Hare makes his acting debut in his own play, a meditation on an extraordinary trip to Israel and Palestine. Royal Court Theatre Downstairs, £19.50 eve Tue-Thur, mat Sat, Sept 3-Oct 3 (not Sept 8).

Anna Karenina The acclaimed Shared Experience Theatre returns to London with this imaginative adaptation of Tolstoy's great novel. Lyric Theatre Hammersmith, £18 eve Tue-Fri, mat Sat, Sept 15-Sept 26.

Anna and Elizabeth *The Two Ladies* (in rep) starring Cathy Tyson and Tim Woodward and directed by Michael Bogdanov. The English Shakespeare Company at the Hackney Empire, £16.50 eve Mon-Thurs, Oct 12-22.

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CHANGING TIMES



He has introduced floodlit games, delayed starts and a sense of dynamism and purpose to cricket's most conservative county. Now Pigott plans to turn Sussex into a club fit for the 21st century. Photograph: Andrew Hasson

In 1976, when an Old Harrovian with four initials first entered the dressing-room at Hove, it was probably a fair bet that he would end up running the club, for Sussex were dedicated admirers of administrators who had either been to public school or recently retired from the services, or preferably both.

That A. C. S. Pigott should turn out, two decades later, to be both a self-confessed rebel and an advocate of cricketing post-modernism, however, made the idea laughable. Surely this fellow, a wayward spirit in his playing days and a mould-breaking entrepreneur ever since, had no place among the venerable reactionaries in their deckchairs?

Some remain unconvinced, others openly antagonistic, but Tony Pigott is sustaining one of the great coups of contemporary cricket. After initiating the overthrow of a complacent committee early last year, he is well into his second season as chief executive and nowhere in the shires is there to be found a more passionate crusader for 21st-century cricket.

His style may be thought inspired or simply impetuous; possibly, there is a mix of the two. Beyond question, Pigott has uprooted the Sussex of old - stately or stagnated, depending on your view - and replanted it in another, glitzier age. He has staged night cricket at both ends of the season, scheduled championship games to run into the evening and been unafraid to spend money, speculating to accumulate. His commitment is to make the game accessible, attractive and financially viable, surely an admirable aim, but in this most conservative of counties a proportion of members are kicking and screaming.

His mailbag brings regular denunciations. One threatened darkly: "I would remind you of the democratic process which brought about your appointment... you have ceased to show any regard for this and if this does not change forthwith, the same democratic process will be used to oust those who are determined to act against the will of the club's membership." In the same week, Pigott was threatened with a court injunction by local residents, while Brighton's radio station and newspaper wondered if his latest audacity on the issue of erecting floodlights would cost him his job. Then, on Monday, as the ground filled for a day-night match against Middlesex, the occasion was scarred first by a thunderstorm and then by a fiasco over the recalculated target.

Hove's deckchair brigade fails to halt Pigott's tide of progress

For a cricketing visionary on the South Coast, plainly, life is a rollercoaster, though one would never know it from Pigott's demeanour. "I love this club and I love this job," he declares, with a sunny expression that defies doubt.

At 40, Pigott has put himself in the vanguard of cricketing reform. His inquisitive mind is challenging the rituals and prohibitions that have for too long barred significant change and his affection for the dilapidated old ground does not deter him from steps he sees as sensible, though others may consider sacrilege. He is making a stir as a man in authority and many

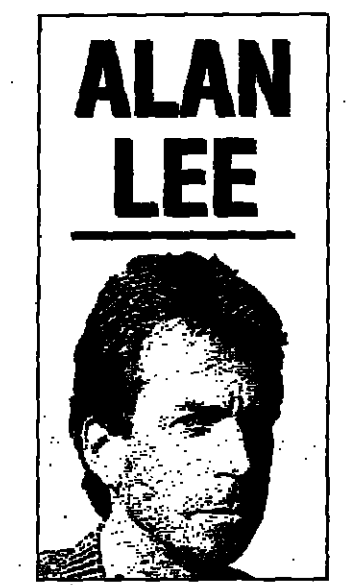
who knew him as a long-haired and high-living fast bowler are astounded.

Pigott does not deny his past. Rather, he puts it in the context of a personality finding its identity. "Ending up in this seat is probably not quite so strange to me as it is to a lot of other people," he said. "They may look and say, 'how can this bloke be doing that job?', but they are judging on what I was, not what I am. I did have a reputation but everybody changes. I got lucky."

Perhaps Pigott the young tearaway was only ever making a statement against his background. "Nobody would have believed I was an Old Harrovian," he said. "My Dad, who is a stockbroker in the City, had gone to Harrow and my grandfather before him, so it was automatic that I went there, too. But it was totally the wrong school for me.

It did teach me a lot, principally that I don't like the public school type with all his arrogance and his privileges. It made me aware that you've got to treat everyone the same. But I rebelled against the whole thing. I was never a toff and when I came to play for Sussex, I made sure everyone knew it."

There are sundry tales from Pigott's twenties involving late



ALAN LEE

nights and laddishness. "Was I wild? At certain times, yes. I was young and the professional game at that time was a place where people had a drink and enjoyed themselves. The cricket was not taken quite so seriously as it is now."

For an essentially workaday cricketer, he has a few gems on his CV. Pigott's first three wickets in first-class cricket were a hat-trick; he postponed his wedding to answer an emergency call from England to play his only Test match; and he ended up with the

substantial statistics of close to 5,000 runs and 700 wickets.

The playing, though, was soon a means to an end for Pigott, whose business brain has always been sharp. In 1986, he bought a half-share in the squash club at the top end of the Hove ground, spent eight winters running it and then sold it. He worked in the club's marketing department and, when he moved to Surrey, stipulated that a marketing post must be included.

"While I was at Surrey, I set up a management company. It struck me as odd that cricketers like Alec Stewart and Graham Thorpe had no one looking after their affairs," he said. "They signed with me on day one, along with Mark Ramprakash, but I also wanted to help younger players develop a sense of their worth, because when I joined Sussex no one told me that at 32 I would have nothing and would need to start my life again."

The restart has been hectic, especially the past 18 months. Pigott's metamorphosis, one of the ultimate cases of poacher turned gamekeeper, was prompted by Sussex losing six capped players after the 1996 season. "Nobody was doing anything about it," he said. "Nobody was taking responsibility. I went to a solicitor in London with a copy of the club rules and he told me that I needed 50 members to sign a petition against the committee. I actually got 66, posted it

through the club's letterbox and forced an EGM."

For an employee of Surrey to take such action against Sussex could indicate a meddlesome opportunist but, in Pigott's case it was an expression of revulsion over the state of the club he had always held dear. "Sussex is through my heart," he said. "Always has been. But nobody can say I planned this, because I'd had a flat in Brighton for years but I sold it two months before I came back."

Pigott had envisaged being chairman but Robin Marlar redirected him into the full-time position he now holds. Marlar, a more authentic Harrovian, who was at school with Pigott's father - took the chair after the momentous meeting attended by 1,000 members and subsequent resignation of an entire committee. In October he will hand over to Don Tringham, a former board member at Marks & Spencer, but the groundwork has been done.

"I was staggered by what happened," Pigott said. "Everyone talks about Sussex people being conservative and apathetic, but they wanted change." Pigott and his new, progressive committee have certainly given them that.

He had to endure a summer of unavoidable failure on the field, for six players could not be replaced

adequately overnight, but this season saw the arrival of Chris Adams and Michael Bevan and the management skills of Dave Gilbert as director of cricket. The team is on the move and Pigott is ensuring that the momentum of administration is always one step ahead.

Not everything he does can be popular, for most county members are set in their ways. The late starts to championship games bring many grumbles from those able to turn up at 11am and unwilling to stay beyond 6.30pm, but for every malcontent there may be a convert. "I keep saying that we must stage cricket when people can watch it," Pigott said. "The club cricketer, for instance, has no chance to watch a first-class game if he's working all week and playing at weekends. We're giving him that chance."

Night cricket at Hove, inconceivable pre-Pigott, is now popular with local businesses as well as increasing numbers of children. Next month, a planning application for permanent lights will be opposed by a proportion of residents - though not by all. "I called a meeting with them," Pigott said, "and one stood up and asked the others what they would prefer to have on their doorsteps - a cricket ground or a supermarket?"

Pigott does not discount the possibility of Sussex leaving Hove. His virtue, indeed, is that he does not discount anything. He is seeking advice and ideas from rugby league and planning a trip to the United States to observe baseball and American football operations. "We must take the game forward, sell it properly, believe in it," he said. "I don't like people who try to make sure things don't work, just so they can say 'I told you so.' A lot of things are said about Tony Pigott, but that, thankfully, will never be among them."

Gallian's century proves academic

By JACK BAILEY

PORTSMOUTH (third day of four): Hampshire (23pts) beat Nottinghamshire (4) by seven wickets

JASON GALLIAN sailed on his stately progress unhindered to the end. His first century for Nottinghamshire was not enough, though, to give his team more than a glimmer of hope.

A total of 71 runs for victory was scarcely calculated to give Hampshire more than the occasional scare, although the loss of their first three wickets for 27 had Shaun Udal, captain of Hampshire for only the second time in a championship match, hopping around like a cat on hot bricks.

In the end, resolute batting by Kevan James and Adrian Aymes overcame the late swing in the heavy atmosphere of Mark Bowen and Kevin Evans, which had accounted for three wickets in the first ten overs of Hampshire's second innings.

When Aymes straight-drove Ahsan for the winning boundary, it was a quarter past three on a perfect summer's day. What with this and now no play on Saturday, the members had been short-changed once again.

They will have been happy enough with their team's performance. Udal's captaincy made the most of his players' limited strengths and they responded well, notably Alex Morris with a seven-wicket haul in the match, Nixon McLean and Dimitri Mascarenhas.

As Hampshire set out on their fourth-innings task, the new ball was swinging late and Evans claimed a genuine seam-bowler's wicket as Jason Lacey was caught behind reaching for the outswinger.

Evans also featured in the mildly controversial dismissal of Stephenson. He tumbled over at long leg in taking a low catch. The local crowd were vociferous in claiming that he had not caught it.

Evans claimed a fair catch, Stephenson lingered, but the word of an old pro could not be denied. At 12 for two Hampshire were worried. Bowen then produced a beauty to get rid of White before James and Aymes restored order.

Hampshire had also been aware that the game might be slipping away when, after Gallian and Johnson had resumed batting at 140 for two, 33 runs adrift, they experienced little difficulty in sending Nottinghamshire into the lead. There were hints of desperation in the air before Johnson was bowled by Mascarenhas for a well-made 66. Nottinghamshire were seven runs ahead.

Gallian continued serenely but the other end became increasingly vulnerable. Archer was beautifully caught low down at second slip by Lacey off the persistent Hartley; Franks waved carelessly outside his leg stump. Gallian was left in dry dock after 54 impressive hours at the crease in which he seldom put a foot wrong.

Law injury casts cloud for Essex

By RICHARD HOBSON

EDGBASTON (second day of four): Essex, with nine second-innings wickets in hand, need 257 to beat Warwickshire

AFTER the fall of 21 wickets on Thursday, a sense of normality returned to Edgbaston yesterday as bat met ball in an even contest. While Essex require the highest total of the match to secure a second Britannic Assurance county championship win, it ought not to be beyond them with application and thought.

Prichard, the captain, and Flanagan, 18, a fresh-faced youth with strong self-discipline, made a confident start as Essex began the long haul towards the 332 target before Prichard gave a return catch to Giddins with the score on 71 shortly before close. Flanagan was undefeated on 49.

Warwickshire are a bowler short in the absence of Dougie Brown and Giddins will have to make early inroads this

morning. However, Stuart Law has a shoulder problem and will undergo surgery next Tuesday, keeping him out for up to three weeks. He can bat, but not with any freedom.

Harry Brind, the England and Wales Cricket Board inspector of pitches, cast a cursory look at the surface



Giles: top scorer

yesterday and intimated that sanctions against the home side will not be forthcoming. He might have guessed as much already, having watched Warwickshire compile 124 runs for the loss of two wickets in the morning session on the way to a total of 280, with Giles, the

nightwatchman, making it through to lunch.

Lars had taken three fours in one over from Iltis shortly before lunch so there was plenty to sustain an expectant crowd during the interval. Another pull from outside off stump, this time when Williams dropped short, augured equally well for a return to form in the afternoon until he drove the next ball on the up to Danny Law at cover.

A fine diving catch by Flanagan, running back from square leg, accounted for Giles, the top scorer with 63,

and Frost pulled Danny Law to the same area before Welch fell lbw sweeping to the persevering Such. Danny Law uprooted the middle stump of Piper and Giddins was undone in the following over when a ball from Williams stayed low.

Once again, the lower order had served Warwickshire well, but the bravest, and most entertaining batting was yet to come. Brown, effectively playing one-handed, came in as last man and assisted Smith in a stand of 43.

He was hit painfully above the left elbow first ball by Williams and required treatment for the blow. Essex tried to frighten him out with short-pitched bowling, but he held firm and, in the meantime, Smith made merry at the other end, pulling Williams for two successive sixes and hitting another six off Iltis before holing out to deep mid-wicket for 47.

Collingwood lets it all slip away

By JOHN THICKESSE

TAUNTON (third day of four): Somerset (23pts) beat Durham (6) by ten wickets

IT IS not too often that a single incident can be identified as the turning point of a match, but yesterday at Taunton was one of the exceptions. Adrian Pierson, batting at No 9 for Somerset, was dropped in the slips when his side were 280 for nine, whereupon he and Andrew Caddick crashed another 38 in 25 minutes, stretching a small lead into what proved to be a decisive one.

Durham, who had held a slight advantage after two days' play, were never in the game again. To be blunt, they went to pieces. Facing an unexpected deficit of 59, they were demoralised, losing five wickets before they got into credit.

In two hours and 50 minutes, Durham were dismissed, on a good pitch, for 128, of which 32 came in a six-over slog by the last-wicket pair. Caddick bowled with superbly sustained pace and hostility to take five for 49 to add to his five for 116 in the first innings. The ninth time that he has taken ten or more wickets in a match. Bowling mainly round the wicket, threatening thighs and ribs and supported by a cordon of five off-side catchers and two short legs, he bowled 17 of the 39 overs in the innings.

Apart from Jimmy Daley, who held out for 115 minutes, Durham caved in. What remained of their resolve after

Somerset's last two wickets had added 90 in the first 65 minutes of the day was knocked out of them by Boon's dismissal 20 minutes before lunch. Uncertain of Caddick's line from round the wicket, the captain's decision to shoulder arms came too late to save him from deflecting the ball into his stumps.

Of the other critical wickets, Morris and Lewis were undone by Rose's late outswinger and Speak was caught and bowled by Caddick off a leading edge. Daley, eighth out, eventually succumbed to an unexpectedly fleet turn of foot by Mushaq, who ran 15 yards to grab a mis-hit knee-high in the covers.

Paul Collingwood, 22, was the unhappy donor of Pierson's match-turning "life". The Durham youngster's crime was still more deflating than is apparent from the bare statistics. Having deprived Steve Harmison of what would have been only the second five-wicket haul of his 12-month-old career, Collingwood filled the wound with lemon juice by attempting to run out Pierson at the bowler's end, only to miss the target by two feet and concede four overthrows.

There was one more moment of high farce before Somerset completed their first win in five matches, the umpires following the letter of the law by taking tea with two runs needed, in spite of being asked by Boon to let the game run until Bowler and Holloway completed it.

Groundsmen unite against new overseer

By ALAN LEE

THE groundsmen responsible for county and Test match pitches around England have united in opposition to the appointment of their new overseer. Chris Wood, 47, is condemned by the groundsmen as being unsuitable and too inexperienced for the prestigious job of pitches consultant. They also believe that he has been deliberately groomed for the position by Harry Brind, whom he will succeed at the end of the year.

Wood was chosen by the England and Wales Cricket Board from a shortlist of three that included Roy McLaren, the long-serving Worcestershire groundsmen, and Nigel Gray, of Hampshire. He has never been in charge of a county ground and prepared only one first-class pitch during his previous job at

Shenley Park, but he will now have overall responsibility for the inspection and assessment of pitches for Test and county cricket.

McLaren, who is the groundsmen's representative on the ECB pitches committee, has contacted all 17 of his colleagues to canvass their views. "Sixteen of us are dead against it," he said yesterday. "One had no strong opinion and the only one in favour was Surrey's Paul Brind, who is Harry's son."

"We are going to talk about this as a group and then make our feelings known to the board, but they have ignored the views of the groundsmen for so long that I don't think it will make any difference."

McLaren added. "I know people will say this is sour grapes on my part, but I can assure you it isn't. Chris Wood has never run a county ground and it is ridiculous that he should be advising people like Mick Hunt at Lord's and Peter Marron at Old Trafford, who have been preparing Test pitches for years."

The dispute echoes the rebellion by county scorers two summers ago, when the ECB appointed Malcolm Ashton for the England tour. The scorers threatened to strike so far, the groundsmen are stopping short of such militancy.

Brian Murgatroyd, the ECB press officer, confirmed that he is aware of the ill-feeling. "It's regrettable, but job appointments are seldom popular with everyone," he said.

Vertical text on the right edge of the page, including "No S", "MICHAEL HENDERSON", "Surrey be", and "Lancashire fi obstructing p".

Handwritten Arabic text at the bottom center: "سنة من الامم"

No sex please, we're cricket fans

MICHAEL HENDERSON



At Trent Bridge

Image is one of those words, like lifestyle, that finds favour in the froth-and-bubble world. It conjures up a picture of Sunday newspaper supplements and other outlets of junk, where the job of bamboozling the public with the cheap and meretricious is undertaken with terrific gusto. Sport gives them every encouragement.

In this world, value is determined by who is considered the most sexy, most rich, most glamorous. The sexiest performers in English cricket, apparently, are the Hollibaek brothers, who play for Surrey and have yet to leave much of a thumbprint.

One has just been deposed as captain of England's one-day team. The other is waiting for his first championship hundred. They are promising players, but so far they have achieved little of substance to support their cause.

Cricket is not considered a sexy game any longer, if it ever was. This week has seen a switch by Axa, the insurance company, from sponsoring cricket's Sunday competition to underwriting the FA Cup to the tune of £5 million over four years. You can't blame them. The FA Cup is the biggest cup competition in any sport in the world. The Sunday league is a pyjama romp, without the sex. To make it work they need a team of Fiona Richmonds.

Note the words that Mark Wood, the chief executive of Axa, used to justify his company's change of tack. "We have decided to sponsor the FA Cup because of football's broad appeal and the fact that interest is running so high. A



Passing threat: Butcher ducks a bouncer from Kallis on his way to 75 in a partnership of 145 with Atherton at Trent Bridge yesterday

company of our size needs to be associated with that appeal, and at the moment football represents the perfect market place. Cricket does not have the scope to compete with football."

Bloody hell, have the rest of us missed a trick, or what? Come on, Signor Wood, nothing can compete with kick-balls! Any day now Parliament will pass a Bill compelling Her Majesty's subjects to watch at least one match a week, and to mimic the behaviour of its more colourful supporters. Failure will be punishable by public flogging in Trafalgar Square by Jimmy Hill. There is no struggle for hearts and minds here. We are smothered by football, morning, noon and night. It has taken over the world.

So why do people continue to watch cricket? Possibly, because, as Kingsley Amis once said about swimming against the tide: if you enjoy

swimming, that's the best way to go. Cricket represents everything that is not fashionable in this super-duper world. It is resolutely not sexy, and unattractive to market researchers with their eyes on "youth". Some people will stick with it out of sheer cussedness.

The qualities that cricket prizes most highly are those

Similarly, the steadiness of an Angus Fraser counts for little to somebody who would prefer to wear a baseball cap the wrong way round, swirl a can of filthy lager and shout coarse imbecilities at bystanders. When Mr Axa speaks of "broad appeal", he should remember the sort of appeal that football, through its cultivation in PR work of such

survived the cut, and reminded everybody of the qualities that have served England so well.

Fraser's record is a noble one. If he is not a great bowler, and few are, then he is certainly one of the very good ones. He has now taken five wickets in an innings 11 times in 42 Tests, and is three-quarters of the way towards

covers, throwing his hat at the ball in the manner of a cavalier, that he seemed to be pining for his adolescence, trying to roll back the years to a more innocent time, before events led him to where he is today.

For the third time in Tests, and the second time this summer, Atherton and Butcher put on more than 100 for the opening wicket. Right-hander, left-hander: it sounds so simple. By chance or by design, England have found an opening pair worth persevering with, after a summer riven by doubt, injury and false starts. They played pretty well together yesterday, with application and "bottom".

When you get down to brass tacks, image is as false in sport as it is anywhere else. Let's leave image for the liars and the soundbites. Better by far to celebrate the man in man.

'Soon Parliament will pass a Bill compelling us to watch at least a football match a week'

that bore bounty-hunters rigid. To bat throughout a day's Test cricket, as Michael Atherton has done, is to show a rare purpose of character, and that sort of thing tends to turn off young people, who would much rather hammer in a rasping volley from the edge of the box.

delightful chaps as Ian Wright, has sought. Grand it was to see Fraser among the wickets again. He imagined the worst when Alan Mullally was named last weekend in the 13-strong party. He thought he would be stood down, as he has been so often in his Test career. But he

joining the 200 club. He has sweated blood and tears for the cause. If only others had been prepared to go the whole hog with him.

Atherton has been a good mate, and he also has plenty of life left in him. There were times yesterday, when he flayed Donald through the

Dakin steps in to frustrate Sri Lankans

By THRASY PETROPOULOS

LEICESTER (first day of four: Leicestershire won toss): The Sri Lankans, with all first-innings wickets in hand, are 194 runs behind Leicestershire

CONDITIONS in England so far have not much suited the Sri Lankans. Beaten to a pulp at Cardiff, they only avoided defeat at Taunton, in their opening tour match, thanks to a second-innings double century by Russel Arnold. A convincing performance here was vital to settle the nerves.

They can be grateful, therefore, to Ben Smith, the acting Leicestershire captain, for electing to bat first on a reaid pitch that had never been used before in a first-class match and which offered lavish movement for the seamers.

With Chris Lewis, Phil Simmons and Vince Wells rested, Alan Mullally out of the equation despite being overlooked by England at Trent Bridge, and James Whitaker absent through injury, this was a vastly under-strength Leicestershire side. That said, the opportunity was there for one or two individuals to hog the limelight.

Chief among those would have been Darren Maddy, who needs a good run to salvage something from what must have been a frustrating season. The early signs were promising, with Maddy cutting and driving pleasantly, but, on 26, he was guilty of cutting at Sureth Perera and edging behind.

Chandika Hathurusingue is a rarity among the Sri Lankans in that he is one seam bowler whose action is suited to these conditions, and he was in no mood to waste the opportunity. Darren Stevens and Ben Smith both fell to the medium-pace in one over.



Dakin: into the breach

affair, yielding 68 runs in 12 overs, which in the context of this match, was going some. But even then, at 149 for seven, something more was needed.

That something came in the form of Mills and a further 79 were added in 29 overs. Nevertheless, the Sri Lankans will take heart from this performance in the field, for they are a side heavily dependent on their batsmen achieving a first-innings lead and then unleashing Muthiah Muralitharan. Indeed, the off spinner, though he looked at times out of sorts, picked up the final three wickets.

Leicestershire's recovery, however, had as much to do with the early dampness in the pitch burning off as any resurgence from their batsmen and the sight of Jayasuriya and Arnold making merry in the 10 overs possible before the close reinforced the point.

Surrey beaten in thrilling finish

CHELTENHAM (third day of four): Gloucestershire (20pts) beat Surrey (6) by two wickets

COUNTY cricket does not come any better than this. Gloucestershire needed 266 to beat the championship leaders, a considerable amount in a low-scoring match, and did so with their ninth-wicket pair at the crease. Martyn Ball, dropped at square leg when 12 runs were still needed, made an unbeaten 48 that, with half-centuries from Robert Cunliffe and Matt Windows, brought about a most unlikely triumph.

There was a resolve about Gloucestershire's batting that was not at all apparent in their first innings. When Alleyne and Church were fifth and sixth out in the same over, 105 runs were still needed. Ball and Windows, who put on 79, took it upon themselves to hit against the bowling.

It has seemed all season that Gloucestershire would not win the Britannic Assurance county championship until

they could come up with a young batsman or two capable of seizing the moment. Earlier, Cunliffe had a stab at doing so, but he was dropped three times, the last the kind of chance that Bicknell, on the square-leg boundary, would normally expect to take.

Hancock, who has been a promising cricketer for some years now, was beaten by Saqlain Mushtaq's flight and turn and Hewson was caught

off bat and pad in the same over.

Russell came in up the order on account of Alleyne having a back injury and also, no doubt, in the hope that he would hold the innings together. This proved to be one of his more fiddly efforts. He remained for a little more than half an hour until Bicknell had him palpably leg before. Such shots of authority as there were before Windows and Ball

came in had been played only by Cunliffe.

He swept Saqlain for six to reach his half-century, but his off stump knocked back by Bicknell shortly afterwards. Windows remained, and did so to considerable effect. When Ball joined him at 163 for six, it was not with the intention of blocking anything pitched up. He took three fours off one Bicknell over, swung Saqlain to the square-leg boundary in the next and took a further four off Bicknell backward of point. It was compelling cricket.

Such a finish had been brought about by characteristic endeavour from Walsh, who with Smith's assistance took the last five Surrey wickets in the morning for just 24 runs. The crowd here relished him. They thought rather less of Surrey, whose coach, John Bracewell, claimed that his players' overzealous appealing was "all part of the modern game". The comment was as unacceptable as the behaviour.

SCOREBOARD FROM CHELTENHAM

SURREY: First Innings 297 (A.J. Hollibaek 112, A.M. Smith 6 for 66)	
J.D. Ruffell c Church b Wismar	9
J.Ward c Russell b Smith	10
N.Shahid b Wismar	14
A.D.Brown c Church b Alleyne	13
B.C.Hollibaek c Hanson b Wismar	27
Saqlain Mushtaq c Ball b Wismar	10
J.A.Koch not out	4
J.W. Bailey b Wismar	4
M.P. Bennett c Russell b Wismar	0
A.J. Tudor not out	15
Extras (lb 4, nb 10)	15
Total	138
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-16, 2-16, 3-39, 4-62, 5-61, 6-103, 7-124, 8-130, 9-134	
BOWLING: Wismar 14-1-47, 6; Smith 14-4-3, 43-2; Lewis 5-1-18, 1; Alleyne 5-0-24, 1	

GLOUCESTERSHIRE: First Innings 167 (D.R. Hanson 58, M.P. Bennett 5 for 34, Section Match 4 for 84)	
R.J. Church b B.C. Hollibaek	53
T.H.C. Hancock b Saqlain	15
D.R. Hanson c Saqlain b Saqlain	58
M.P. Bennett c Saqlain b Saqlain	5
M.J. Windows c Saqlain b Saqlain	6
M.W. Alleyne c Saqlain b Saqlain	27
M.J. Church b Wismar	0
M.C.J. Bennett not out	48
J. Lewis b Wismar	0
A.M. Smith not out	9
Extras (lb 14, nb 25)	45
Total	167
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-44, 2-44, 3-67, 4-100, 5-161, 6-163, 7-242, 8-246	
BOWLING: Bicknell 21-4-13, 2; Tudor 15-4-3, 21; Saqlain Mushtaq 18-10-8-3, 3; C. Hollibaek 12-1-36, 1; A.J. Hickey 2-1-0	

Lancashire find Law obstructing progress

By JOHN STERN

COLWYN BAY (third day of four): Lancashire, with nine second-innings wickets in hand, are 25 runs ahead of Glamorgan

BUT for Steve James' Test call-up last month, Wayne Law might now be preparing to play with Chris Schofield, the Lancashire leg spinner, for England Under-19 against Pakistan next week. Things have turned out rather differently for Law, 19, who yesterday became the second-youngest Glamorgan player to make a first-class century.

Mark Chilton but, in all other respects, it was a fine innings by a young man who looks to have a decent career ahead of him. His driving was excellent and he hit a magnificent straight six off Chilton that rested in the ball being lost in Penrhyn Avenue. His innings of 131 ended when he gave himself room to cut

Dawood, his opening partner, was caught behind in the fourth over. But Law and Dale added 161 for the second wicket before the latter pulled Austin to deep square leg. Powell batted well in an innings of 88 and there was a surprisingly substantial contribution from Cocker late on. Poor Schofield, on his first-class debut, had no luck at all. He got the odd leg break to go past the bat and saw one or two edges fly close to Wasim, his captain, at slip. Wasim, in Lancashire did lose one wicket before the close, that of Wood, who was leg-before to walk in for 13.

Northamptonshire enjoy spinning tale

By PAT GIBSON

NORTHAMPTON (third day of four): Northamptonshire (2pts) beat Derbyshire (2) by an innings and 94 runs

IF ANYTHING was going to turn Northamptonshire's season around, it was a Britannic Assurance county championship match against Derbyshire. They had beaten their Midlands rivals six times in successive seasons and they duly made it seven last night to lift themselves off the foot of table.

How they came to be there in the first place has been the subject of much discussion at the County Ground this week, particularly in a supporters' forum where John Emburey, the chief coach, came in for a lot of criticism. It will have given him some wry satisfaction that two of his off spinning protégés, Jason Brown and Graeme Swann, did as much as anyone to break down Derbyshire's resistance.

Rose did manage to prise out the nightwatchman, Dean, and have Spence caught behind but it was Brown who gave Derbyshire notice of what was in store for them by picking up three wickets and hastening their decline to 225 all out. Curran was slow to put on his spinners when Derbyshire followed on 383 behind, although it hardly seemed to matter when Rose spread-eagled May's middle and off stump in the second over and Malcolm finally got into the act by stopping Stater's gallop after he had made 46 off 48 balls.

Warwickshire v Essex

EDGBASTON (second day of four): Essex, with nine second-innings wickets in hand, require 257 runs to beat Warwickshire

WARWICKSHIRE: First Innings 190

WARWICKSHIRE: First Innings 190	
M.J. Powell c Gibson b East	5
N.V. Knight c Hyatt b East	29
A.F. Elias c Parnham b Williams	83
M.A. Walsh c Hyatt b East	1
B.C. Lara c D.R. Law b Williams	26
T. Frost c Parnham b D.R. Law	23
M.C. Lee not out	2
G. Welch b D. Law	26
N.W.K. Smith c Parnham b East	2
E.S.H. Goldins b Williams	47
D.R. Brown not out	1
Extras (lb 4, nb 16, nb 12)	31
Total	280
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-6, 2-66, 3-106, 4-147, 5-154, 6-184, 7-221, 8-236, 9-237	
BOWLING: Rose 18-2-84-2, East 18-5-59-3, Smith 11-3-30-0, D.R. Law 9-2-36-2	
ESSEX: First Innings 139 (E.S.H. Goldins 4 for 37)	

WARWICKSHIRE: Second Innings

WARWICKSHIRE: Second Innings	
M.J. Powell c Gibson b East	18
N.V. Knight not out	49
M.C. Lee not out	1
Extras (lb 1, nb 6)	7
Total (1 wk)	75
FALL OF WICKET: 1-71	
BOWLING: Goldins 11-4-22-1, Welch 9-0-42-0, Glee 9-4-10-0	
Bonus points: Warwickshire 4, Essex 4	
Umpires: H.D. Bird and T.E. Jessar	

YESTERDAY'S SCOREBOARDS

Vodafone Challenge Series

Leicestershire v Sri Lankans

LEICESTERSHIRE: First Innings	
D.I. Medley c P.W. Jayawardene b Perera	26
J.J. Bicknell c Hathurusingue	17
A.H. Hinchey c P.W. Jayawardene	1
Y.P. A. Nayan b Perera	20
J.M. Dalrymple c Muralitharan	79
D. Williams c Hathurusingue	20
D.J. Mills not out	46
C.D. Crooke c P.W. Jayawardene	1
M.T. Bremner c Jayasuriya b Muralitharan	1
Extras (lb 8, nb 18)	26
Total (87 overs)	245
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-0, 2-45, 3-45, 4-51, 5-107, 6-119, 7-149, 8-229, 9-229	
BOWLING: Muralitharan 17-4-54-2, Perera 17-4-60-2, Hathurusingue 27-7-64-3, Muralitharan 23-4-13, 27 P.M. Jayawardene 3-0-10-0	

Sri Lankans

SRI LANKANS: First Innings	
S.J. Jayasuriya not out	16
R.P. Arnold not out	27
Extras (lb 0, nb 2)	8
Total (no wk, 10 overs)	51
D.P.M. Jayawardene, P.A. de Silva, A.P. Silva, P.W. Jayawardene, U.C. Muralitharan, M. Muralitharan and S.A. Perera b not out	0
BOWLING: Dakin 3-0-21-0, Mills 1-0-14-0, Williams 1-0-8-0, Crooke 3-1-3-0, Bremner 2-1-7-0	
Umpires: N.T. Potts and J.F. Steete	

Britannic Assurance county championship

Glamorgan v Lancashire

COLWYN BAY (third day of four): Lancashire, with nine second-innings wickets in hand, are 25 runs ahead of Glamorgan	
LANCASHIRE: First Innings 225 (P. Curran 124, G.D. Lloyd 50, R.D. Cott 4 for 76)	

Northamptonshire v Derbyshire

NORTHAMPTON (third day of four): Northamptonshire (2pts) beat Derbyshire (2) by an innings and 94 runs

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE: First Innings 608	
M.J. Storer c Love b Taylor	27
M.R. May b Rose	32
R.M. S. Westcott c Curran b Swann	91
K.E. Casson c Curran b Swann	60
G.J. Ward c Curran b Swann	4
K.J. Dean b Rose	8
J.J. Spence c Parnham b Swann	1
M.K. O'Brien c Morsgott b Brown	7
P.A.J. DeFreitas c Parnham b Swann	1
T.M. Smith c Parnham b Swann	1
Extras (lb 1, nb 6, nb 4)	8
Total	225
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-45, 2-88, 3-124, 4-167, 5-191, 6-191, 7-198, 8-198, 9-225	
BOWLING: Rose 12-3-55-3, Taylor 21-5-54-2, Malcolm 9-2-26-0, Brown 28-5-78-3, Swann 7-3-4-2, Curran 3-1-0	

Warwickshire v Essex

EDGBASTON (second day of four): Essex, with nine second-innings wickets in hand, require 257 runs to beat Warwickshire

WARWICKSHIRE: First Innings 190

WARWICKSHIRE: Second Innings

FALL OF WICKET: 1-71

BOWLING: Goldins 11-4-22-1, Welch 9-0-42-0, Glee 9-4-10-0

Bonus points: Warwickshire 4, Essex 4

Umpires: H.D. Bird and T.E. Jessar

Tufnell in top form with ball

By BARNEY SPENDER

LORD'S (third day of four): Middlesex, with nine second-innings wickets in hand, are 218 runs ahead of Yorkshire

A CHANCELESS century from Michael Vaughan and an entertaining partnership between Richard Blakey and Gavin Hamilton enabled Yorkshire to avoid the follow on, but Phil Tufnell dominated the day.

The left-arm spinner, who was a national hero less than a year ago when he spun England to victory at the Oval, has enjoyed what can be termed a lean season with just 14 wickets. Yesterday, however, he began to show the form of old, the form which, had it shone through a little earlier in the season, would probably have seen him selected for England.

His whole mood smacked of confidence. His run, even with its little stutter, looked easy as he found a good line and length.

His return of four for 65 is hardly enough to command a return to national colours but the indications are good. Having removed David Byas the previous evening, he outwitted Anthony McGrath with his flight, while Vaughan scooped a catch to Mike Gatting at mid-wicket. Tufnell finished the innings when Hamilton was stumped.

Vaughan's second hundred of the season set up the Yorkshire reply but Hamilton proved their saviour, coming to the crease with Yorkshire unevenly positioned on 215 for seven, still 84 runs away from the follow-on target.

He immediately hit Richard Johnson for three boundaries in four balls as he raced to 50 after 48 deliveries. Fortunately, he was dropped at least three times.

Blakey and Hamilton added 108 in 24 overs before their partnership ended.

Leading by 113, Middlesex strengthened their position before the close as Gatting, 56 not out, and David Goodchild, 35 not out, added an unbeaten 95 for the second wicket.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-14, 2-70, 3-122, 4-187, 5-233, 6-251, 7-261, 8-273, 9-289

BOWLING: Muralitharan 11-2-38-1, Rose 8-0-47-1, Taylor 10-1-42-0, Brown 21-4-42-0, Swann 23-4-91-4

Umpires: J.C. Balderson and J.W. Lloyd

SOMERSET v DURHAM

TAUNTON (third day of four): Somerset (2pts) beat Durham (0) by 167 wickets

DURHAM: First Innings 259 (D.C. Brown 73, N.J. Speak 51; A.R. Caddick 5 for 116)

SOMERSET: First Innings

J.J. B. Lewis b Rose

J.E. Morris b Parsons b Rose

N.J. Speak c and b Caddick

J.A. Daley c Mushtaq b Caddick

M.J. Foster b Brown b Mushtaq

N.C. Phillips c Rose b Mushtaq

M.M. Betts not out

S.H. Harrison c Rose b Mushtaq

Extras (lb 4, nb 3, nb 8)

Total

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-10, 2-13, 3-31, 4-31, 5-57, 6-73, 7-83, 8-83, 9-91

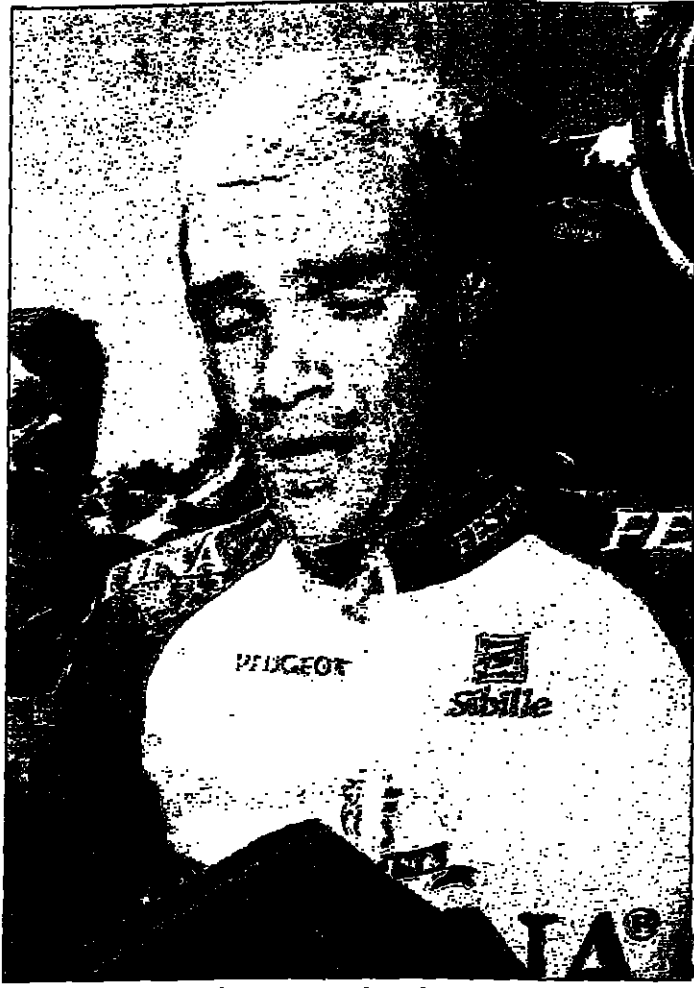
BOWLING: Caddick 17-4-49-5, Rose 11-4-35-2, Mushtaq Ahmed 9-2-23-3, Pearson 1-0-1-0

SOMERSET: Second Innings

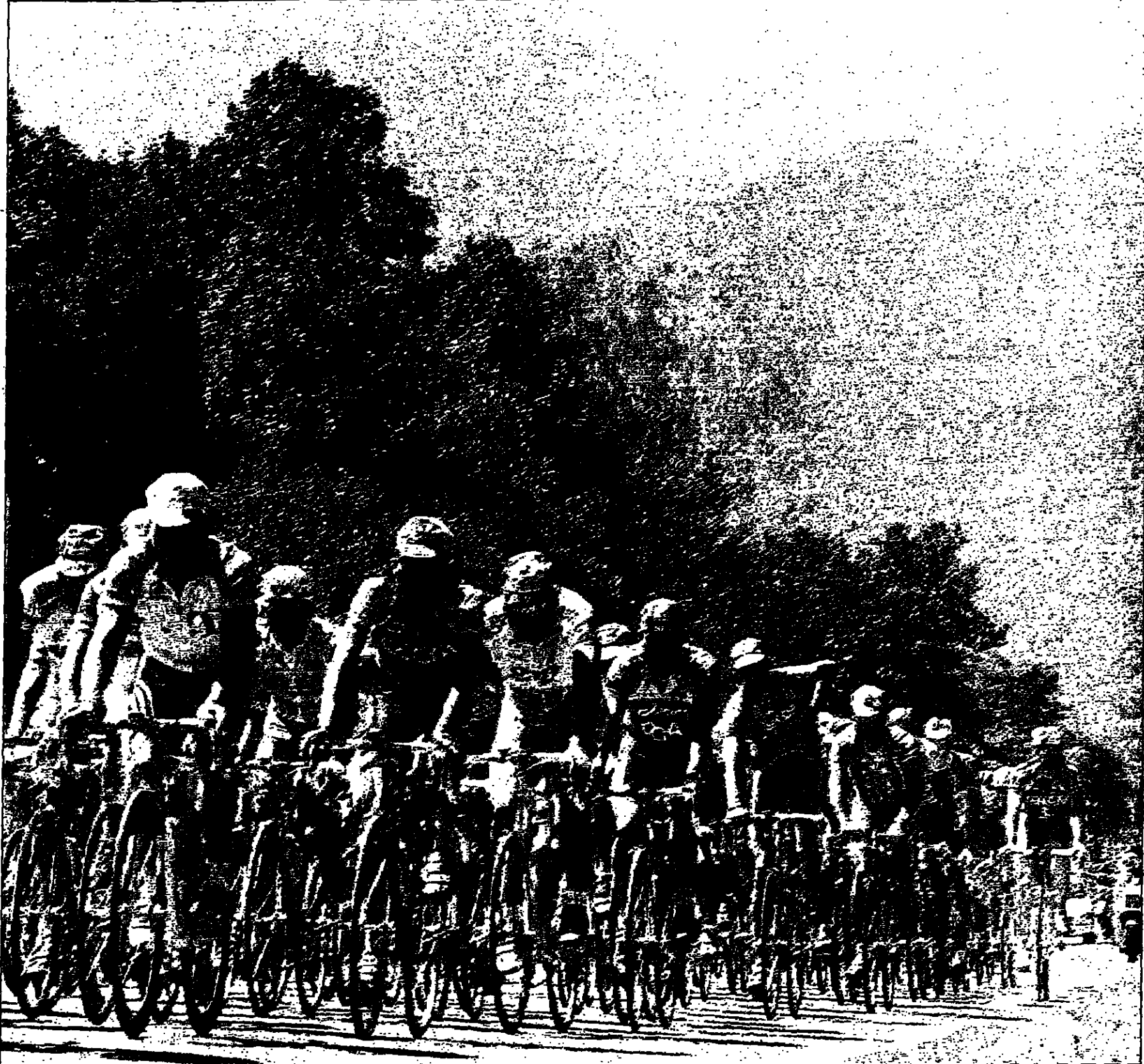
P.D. Bowler c Speight b Harrison

 P.C. Holloway c Foster b Bens | M.E. Teschendorf c Speak b Harrison | R.L. Watkinson c Speight b Harrison | K.A. Parsons c Brown b Mushtaq | A.R.K. Pearson c Speight b Foster | M. Bubbuck c Daley b Foster | Mushtaq Ahmed c Daley b Foster |

Cycling and drugs can't be divorced, James Waddington claims. Now is the time for reconciliation



Richard Virenque, of the disgraced Festina team, faces the media



The healthy, wholesome image of stage-race cycling is an advertising man's dream, until the methods required to sustain it are revealed. Photograph: Joel Saget

Why the Tour must head for the open road

You are a tiny kid, something very bad happens; you keep still and hope that it will go away. This is what the organisers of the Tour de France are doing while the monster of universal drug use looms over them...

The sport is contaminated and besmirched. It is a cesspool. Liberation says, "the giants of the road are the dwarves of sporting morality." And yet they are not. It is the Old Testament ranting that is morally suspect...

—nutritional, hormonal, anabolic — with the aim of keeping anabolism, the process of building up the body, and catabolism, the process of breaking it down to produce energy, in optimal balance.

always a delusion anyway, because it can be exploited by the second-rate but devious, who will masquerade as virgins while shooting up with the whole pharmacopoeia at the — invisible — leading edge of the market.

'Trust, not the reflex shriek of "drugs, the excrement of Satan", should be the point in the whole discussion'

Is it something that alters mood or perception? If your blood sugar is low, mashed potato will do that. Is it something synthetic, something that the body would not meet in a state of nature? So Locoaze is a drug, but cannabis is not.

exhaustive knowledge, and thus the average professional cyclist with no scientific background becomes not a partner but a patient. He opens his mouth, holds out his arm, and trusts. That trust, not the reflex shriek of "drugs, the excrement of Satan", should be the crucial point in the whole discussion.

Well, there would be fools who died when they need not have, as has happened many times before. But the money, the research, the intellectual excitement, the art, and yes, the sport — to the virgins? I don't think so.

PICK UP A FREE £10 BET... KING GEORGE VI AND QUEEN ELIZABETH DIAMOND STAKES... RING TODAY 0800 100 230

Race reduced to a standstill

THE 1998 Tour de France stood on the brink of disaster yesterday, as speculation increased that a rider revolt, yet more doping scandals and the probable exclusion of the Dutch TVM team would lead to the abandonment of the race.

After the early-morning police raid on the TVM team's hotel in Palmiers on Thursday, the French prosecutor's office confirmed that banned doping products, thought to include both steroids and masking agents, had been found in three team bags.



Pantani joins the sit-down protest at Tarascon-sur-Ariege

TOUR DE FRANCE DETAILS... TWELFTH STAGE (Tarascon-sur-Ariege to La Cap d'Agde, 223km) 1. T Steels (Bel, Mapal) 4hr 12min 51sec; 2. J. Julich (Bel, Lotto) 4hr 13min 11sec; 3. L. Janssens (Bel, Domo) 4hr 13min 11sec; 4. M. Pantani (It, Mercatone Uno) 4hr 13min 11sec; 5. M. Boogard (Hol, Rabobank) 4hr 13min 11sec; 6. S. O'Grady (Aus, GAN) 4hr 13min 11sec; 7. A. Fringuet (It, Vitaloni) 4hr 13min 11sec; 8. A. Verhulst (Hol, Rabobank) 4hr 13min 11sec; 9. J. Postel (Bel, Lotto) 4hr 13min 11sec; 10. G. Hincapie (US, US Postal) 4hr 13min 11sec; 11. M. Mott (It, Saeco) 4hr 13min 11sec; 12. A. Tondini (Bel, Lotto) 4hr 13min 11sec; 13. O. Pozzo (It, Cofidis) 4hr 13min 11sec; 14. C. Vasseur (Fr, GAN) 4hr 13min 11sec; 15. A. Cazorla (Sp, Vitaloni) 4hr 13min 11sec; 16. R. Juchacz (US, US Postal) 4hr 13min 11sec; 17. M. Lintch (US, US Postal) 4hr 13min 11sec; 18. J. Lintch (US, US Postal) 4hr 13min 11sec; 19. S. Gonzalez (Sp, Kelme) 4hr 13min 11sec; 20. P. Fernandez (Bel, Lotto) all at same time.



Carson Ultin... ROWING England in shape to shine again... THE Home Country national will be in the Clyde Park...

سكوا من الامل

Carson the consummate jockey displays thoroughbred quality when deflecting questions

Ultimate teaboy keeps charm on tight rein



Just when you thought it was safe to forget about the Horse of the Century until next spring — autumn at the earliest, even for the truly avid — along comes another, just like the 49 bus. He is Royal Anthem, an absolute whopper of a horse at 17 hands, and he runs this afternoon in the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes at Ascot, which might just cut up to be the great race of the season.

But by this time of the year, we really should have sorted out the argument about who is the best three-year-old in the country: why else do we run the Derby? And it has all been great fun as various horses of the century have passed through: Xaar, King of Kings, Cape Verdi. We should have reached the end of the run when it comes to untapped potential. So where did this giant beast come from?

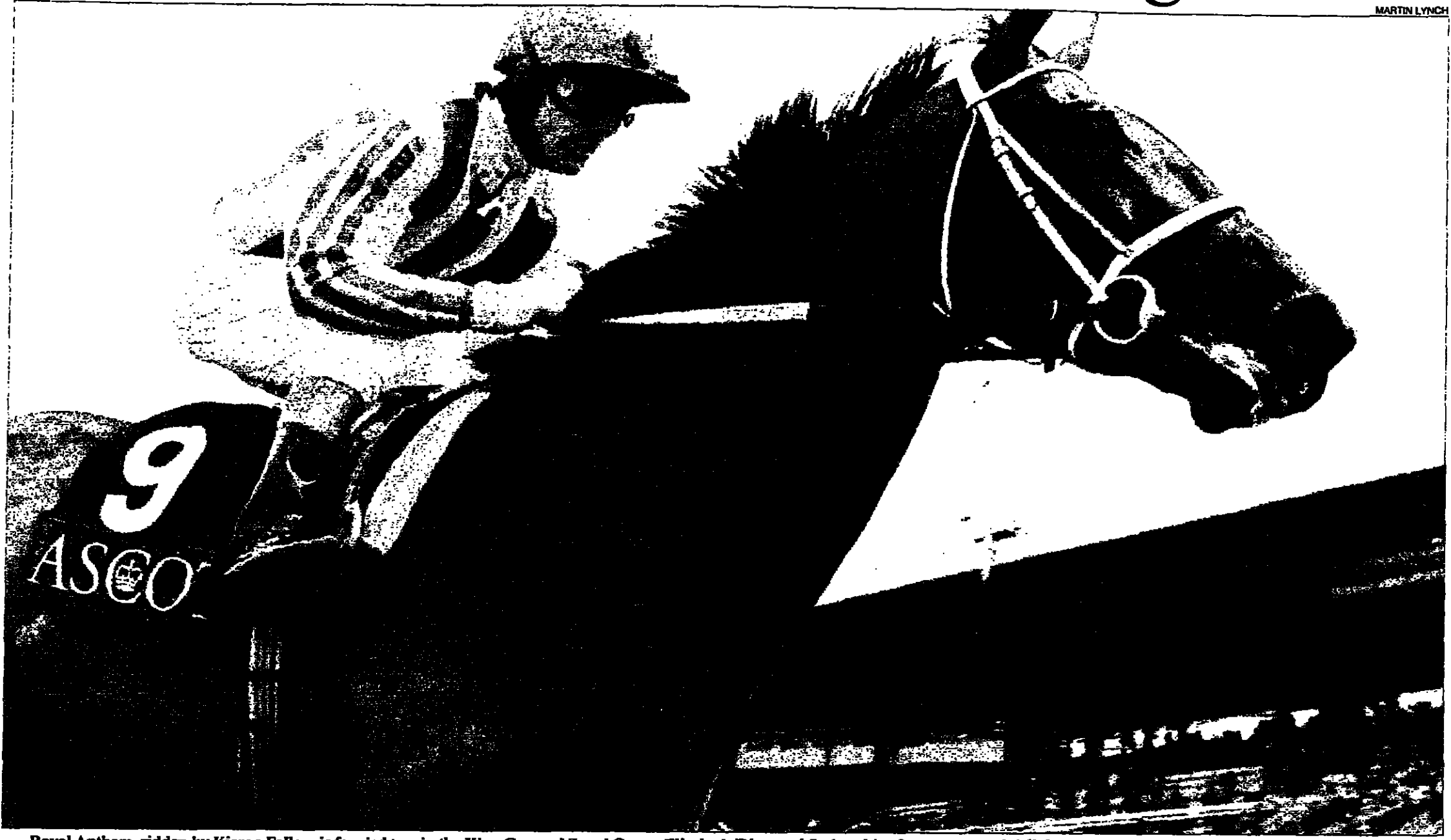
Well, he ran on Derby day, but not in the actual Derby. Henry Cecil, his trainer, was heard to remark that it was a pity that the best three-year-old colt in England was running at Newmarket rather than Epsom.

Royal Anthem won that day, then won again at Royal Ascot. He won the King Edward VII Stakes, which only good horses win. But not necessarily great ones. As a matter of fact, that particular race has given me more pleasure than any other horse race in history, and not because I had a bet on. I didn't.

In 1987, I spent a year researching a book, which was about a year in the life of a racing stable. It all happened thanks to John Dunlop, the trainer whose extraordinary generosity enabled me to put the book together.

In that year, Dunlop went through the most terrible few weeks of his life, with the death of his eldest son, Tim, and the simultaneous failure of every one of his horses. In a time of grieving, the normal soothing rhythm of winners eluded him. There was, no doubt, some sub-clinical infection running through the year.

At last the drought ended, and did so with some style in



Royal Anthem, ridden by Kieren Fallon, is fancied to win the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes this afternoon — and delight Carson, who is connected with the horse's owners

the King Edward VII when Love The Groom got home and signalled that a tentative return to normal life could begin. I have never forgotten the year, nor the Dunlop family, nor Castle Stables, and it is still my deepest pleasure in racing to return there. But an odd thing about the book: I never got round to talking to any jockeys. It just didn't happen.

Owners, yes, lads, of course, pupil assistants, apprentices, secretaries, Marcus who does the entries. But for some reason, never a jockey. Dunlop did not retain one: that was not his custom. He does not ask jockeys to come and ride work; a jockey is not part of stable routine. His preferred manner of working is to recruit the best jockey available. Who was normally Willie Carson. It was Pat Eddery that won the King Edward, as it happened. But Carson was usually the jockey Dunlop asked first.

Winning a horse race is a run business, because there is so little you can do to get it right, and so much you can do to get it wrong. Perhaps 80 per cent of winning a race is down

to the horse. The trainer puts in another 15 per cent, the jockey the remaining five. It's not much: but don't try it without a jockey who can put in a full 5 per cent. Second place doesn't pay the bills.

Throughout the year, Carson put in his 5 per cent for Dunlop, and it worked. And I watched from a distance because, as ever, I preferred the stable yard to the racetrack. So I never met Carson.

Just admired his style. At his absolute peak, he was a lunatic, a ball of fire. I shall always be grateful to him for his successive Derby wins, in 1979 and 1980. The first was that glorious, dramatic, bull-showing charge of Troy. Troy was so good, so dominant that even I might have failed to finish last on him, but Carson, with bold, brave timing, allowed Troy to spread the Derby field as few horses have done.

The following year he won

with Henbit, by a much narrower margin, less than a length. When it comes to jockeys, by their short heads you shall know them. Henbit broke a bone in his foot in the closing strides, but with his own indomitable courage and the driving will of his jockey, he still won. It was an extraordinary triumph.

So, finally, I got to meet Carson after all these years. For Carson is deeply involved with Royal Anthem, connected with the Thoroughbred Corporation, the horse's owners. I rang him and he kindly agreed to meet and to discuss the horse. We met at the races, where he was doing his stuff on the BBC as the lovable, merry little publicist for the grand sport of racing.

I have no idea what Carson does with the Thoroughbred Corporation, because he wouldn't tell me. Having agreed to meet, he decided to play the old sports star's game of Block the Question. It is a

not terribly subtle way of making sure that you give the journalist nothing to write about.

Michael Atherton did it in press conferences; Glenn Hoddle does it too. It is a form of self-defence in a very difficult situation. Carson performed the manoeuvre for the simple pleasure of it. "So what do you do with Thoroughbred Corporation?"

"I make the tea, heh-heh-heh-heh-heh. Which is not terribly helpful to me, and not terribly helpful to the grand sport of racing, an industry that needs all the friends it can get."

But there we are, we must rise above such things, and dispel such matters as the hope that Royal Anthem loses by at least as much as Troy won by. No, really, we can do better than that: after all, a great horse cannot fail to stir the blood, no matter who makes the tea, and if Royal Anthem proves himself as

such, I shall not forget to cheer. And this non-running at the Derby, well, it was all a cunning plan, you know. According to Carson, Big, late developer, you understand. Well, obviously. The Derby is hardly worth winning, is it? I felt a faint suspicion stealing over me that Carson was not being entirely frank.

In fact, I felt rather like the southerner who expressed an opinion at the Roses cricket match and was told to shut up: "It's got now't to do with thee." Certainly the horse has nothing to do with me. What has the public got to do with racing? Increasingly little, alas.

But come. Let us once again savour the anticipation: the moment in the stalls when there might — there just might — be a horse that can fly like Pegasus. Or even like Troy: that would be good enough for me.

"How do you feel about your involvement with such a nice horse?"
"Better than being involved with a bad one, heh-heh-heh-heh-heh." Thank you Mr Carson and goodnight. Next time I'll interview the horse.



Carson, who is giving little away to polite inquiries

'He decided to play the old sports star's game of Block the Question'

ROWING

England in shape to shine again

By Mike Rosewell, Rowing Correspondent

THE Home Countries International will be held at Strathclyde Park, Glasgow, today with David Porteus, the England manager, "quietly confident" that his team will shine in the four sections of the competition. England do seem to have great strength in depth.

The four sections are for senior men, senior women, junior men and junior women. England were victorious in the last three categories in 1997 while Scotland won in the senior men's event and took the premier trophy. Ireland came second on overall points.

Scotland, having achieved their best medal haul at a national championships last week, would seem to have a few bankers on their home water, particularly with Keith Grainger in the women's sculls and Kevin Watson in the junior men's sculls.

The men's lightweight fours could be a national championships rerun of the battle between the Scotland crew from Clyde and the England representatives from Nottingham. Clyde took the honours by three seconds last Sunday.

Wales's best chance of a victory would seem to be in the men's coxless pairs, where Mark Partridge, the national champion, and Roger Etherington are the crew.

TENNIS: CHAMPIONS RETAIN COUNTY WEEK TITLE BY NARROWEST OF MARGINS

Hampshire rally to survive test of nerve



Wilkinson, top, Hafeez Hamed, middle, and Scullard prepare to serve in the decisive County Week rubber

AFTER countless contests of blood and sweat, it all hinged on the final day, then the final session, the final match, the final set and right down to the final tie-break. At the end of it, Hampshire and Isle of Wight wrecked nerves to retain the Inter-County Cup they won for the first time last year.

It marked a thrilling conclusion to a thrilling week. Berkshire's men inflicting a rare defeat on Hampshire — only to lose out on countback by one rubber: 30 against 29. It was one of those matches where neither county deserved to lose.

The decisive encounter featured two pairs who enjoyed contrasting fortunes throughout a nail-biting closing day. For Hampshire, Nick Neal and Paul Scullard, a bastion of strength over the previous four days, went into the match having yesterday lost their previous two rubbers. They faced the Berkshire combination of Richard Holden and Lee Goodall, both 26 and an established partnership spanning 16 years. Indeed, they had earlier played the match of their lives to inflict a first defeat of the week on Chris Wilkinson and Laurence Matthews.

They had the momentum, too, in the third set, when Holden served for the County Cup at 5-3. But Hampshire survived, squared the match and won the ensuing tie-break. A large gallery was left spellbound by the occasion.

At the other end of the scale, Lancashire were relegated to

pairing of Mandy Wainwright and Clair Hammond in the opening sequence of matches. That set the tone for their team-mates, who responded against their under-strength opponents.

Wainwright's unfortunate injury on the opening day — which almost certainly precipitated Essex's defeat by Surrey — opened the week on a miserable note. It got worse: after winning for four successive years and losing out last year only on countback, Essex were relegated to group two.

Once again County Week more than lived up to its billing as a feast of tennis, played, with one notable exception, in equal measures of passion and restraint. All sport becomes a fraction more competitive each year and this event is no exception. Before play commenced yesterday, Keith Dewick, the referee, reminded all the captains of their responsibility to uphold the spirit of the game. The effect was visibly and audibly discernible after the ructions of Thursday.

Dewick's role in Lancashire's withdrawal of Mike Ingham from the competition was accentuated by the fact that he does not usually adjudicate in matches involving Buckinghamshire, the county he represents on the Lawn Tennis Association. Ingham took no further part after a racket he kicked struck the face of a courtside spectator in the contest between Lancashire and Buckinghamshire on Thursday.

Warwickshire, the champions last year, came good after switching their demoralised players around to contrive an effective unit. The play worked a treat as Joanne Keene and Claire Lyte combined to rout Essex's leading

SPORTS POLITICS

Lottery boost for sports councils

By John Goodbody

THE Government yesterday cheered British sport by revealing that National Lottery money would continue to help to fund facilities and competitors to a similar extent after 2001 when the present contract with Camelot expires.

However, the national governing bodies were disappointed that, on a day when an extra £125 million over the next three years was being given by the Treasury to the arts, the sports councils were only receiving a further £6 million over the same period, scarcely keeping up with projected inflation.

With direct Exchequer funding now providing a drastically decreasing proportion of money in public subsidy, sport is looking increasingly to the lottery to support the building of facilities, help preparation for leading events and aid in coaching, administration and sports science.

Since the lottery was introduced in November 1994, £815 million has been given to the four home-country sports councils. When the licence with Camelot expires in three years' time, the total is expected to be £1.8 billion. The English Sports Council (ESC) has distributed 83.3 per cent, Scotland 8.9 per cent, Wales 5 per cent and Northern Ireland 2.8 per cent.

In common with the other five "good causes", sport now gets 16.5 per cent of the lottery

money. The Government said yesterday that this level would continue throughout the next franchise, likely to be from 2001 until at least 2006.

Derek Casey, the chief executive of the ESC, which has distributed £716 million to community sports facilities over the past three years, said the news meant that it could plan into the new millennium. "We believe the announcement reflects the Government's satisfaction that lottery money has been spent prudently and equitably," he said.

Combined Exchequer funding for the ESC and United Kingdom Sports Council (UKSC) is £49 million in the present financial year. This will rise to £51 million for the next two years and £52 million for the year after that, whereas the projected figures a year ago were £49 million, £49 million and £50 million respectively. Much of the extra money will be used by the UKSC to help with the new UK Sports Institute in Sheffield.

Nigel Hook, head of technical services for the Central Council of Physical Recreation, which represents the national governing bodies, said: "The agreement to maintain the level of lottery funding after 2001 is to be welcomed. But we are disappointed with the level of Exchequer funding. It is hardly in line with inflation."

Wild

Perfect platform for Royal Anthem

By RICHARD EVANS, RACING CORRESPONDENT

ON Derby Day seven weeks ago, a good judge at Henry Cecil's Warren Place yard voiced the view that the best three-year-old colt in England was running at Newmarket that evening instead of Epsom. At Ascot today, his judgment will be put to the test as Royal Anthem, the subject of High-Rise in what promises to be a vintage renewal of the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes.

The midsummer clash between the classic and older generations for the middle-distance crown is invariably a moment to savour and the quality of today's field should satisfy the fustiest connoisseur.

Swain, the winner in atrocious conditions 12 months ago, faces his stablemate Daylam, fresh from landing the Eclipse Stakes, Silver Patriarch, who captured the Coronation Cup, Romanov,

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: KARAKIA (5.35 Ascot)
Next best: MYTHICAL GIRL (2.35 Ascot)

winner of the Jockey Club Stakes, the distinctly useful Happy Valentine — plus a trio of talented three-year-olds. I will be looking to the classic generation to maintain its domination of the race, which has seen them prevail 25 times, compared to 17 victories by four-year-olds and five for five-year-olds.

Royal Anthem, a giant of a horse who, not surprisingly, did not race as a two-year-old, made his debut in a quality maiden at Newbury just ten weeks ago and created a most favourable impression, winning by a comfortable three lengths from several subsequent winners.

Three weeks later — on Derby Day — the Theatrical colt was raised considerably in stride, but took it easily in his class and posted a record time when beating Kilmanjaro and Sensory on fast

ground. Next stop was Royal Ascot, for the King Edward VII Stakes, where he again showed his quilting powers to deny Kilmanjaro on ground softer than ideal.

Royal Anthem's homework since has been of the highest order — notably by Hitman and Porto Fornos — which suggests his rapid rate of improvement has continued. Although he clearly acts on all surfaces, the American-bred colt will appreciate the fast conditions underfoot today.

Willie Carson, who looks after the European affairs of the Thoroughbred Corporation, owners of Royal Anthem, said yesterday: "It is truly a championship race this year but whatever Royal Anthem achieves tomorrow he is the only horse who will improve after the race. He is still maturing and progressing."

Although the Derby form has taken several reversals in recent weeks, only one runner has subsequently won a race — High-Rise was a worthy winner, making up a lot of ground from the rear before quickening a second time to repel City Honours, the sign of a top-class horse. Also unbeaten, he has been given ample time to overcome his Epsom exertions and has been pleasing Luca Cumani in his preparation for today's encounter. Of the 21 Derby winners to have run in the race in the same year, 12 have completed the double.

Of the older brigade, Swain attempts to become the first six-year-old to win this race and there is a feeling in the Godolphin camp that Frankie Dettori has chosen the wrong horse. Perhaps he was concerned by Daylam's ability to see out today's extra quarter mile, but his style of racing suggests the Eclipse winner should not fall through lack of stamina. A strong pace will suit Silver Patriarch and he should be able to reverse Newmarket form with Romanov on 5lb better terms.

However, I expect the three-year-olds to dominate the finish, with Royal Anthem proving he is the best in Britain.



Compton Admiral, left, leaves Killer Instinct in his wake as he wins the EBF Maiden Stakes at Ascot yesterday

Butler shows Killer Instinct

By CHRIS MCGRATH

WHEN Gerard Butler last stood in the Ascot unsaddling enclosure, after the Chesham Stakes at the royal meeting, he could forlornly reflect that nobody is ever interested in the runner-up. The young trainer, needing headlines in his first season, had watched Compton Admiral endure a desperate passage before making up three lengths in half a furlong — only to be denied by the fact that Rhapsodist had inflated a nostril as they passed the judge's camera.

Yesterday, however, when the same colt returned to the scene of his ill-luck, Butler watched the press feed hungrily around a horse he had beaten decisively. All the talk before the race had been about Killer Instinct, an unraced son of Zafonic whose work on Newmarket Heath saw him enter the paddock embarrassed by a quote of 8-1 for the Sagitta 2,000 Guineas next spring. Words were duly allowed to speak louder than actions and, after his defeat, Coral somehow kept Killer Instinct as its favourite, at 12-1, with Compton Admiral 25-1. Still, Butler will take such sweet

lessons over sour every time, as he continues a sure-footed start on the uphill path of his new profession.

In fairness, Henry Cecil is easy on his young horses and Killer Instinct forged his reputation bullying inferiors on the bridle at home. He approached his first competitive experience so languidly that, at one comic moment, he all but fell as he stroled round the paddock. Compton Admiral, by contrast, was businesslike.

And business was precisely what he meant, Pat Eddery switching his mount to quicken as the 9-4 on favourite made his own smooth challenge two furlongs out. Startled by such impudence, Killer Instinct could find no adequate response and was a length down at the line.

"At home he has tremendous cruising speed, and quickens very well," Cecil said. "But today, first time out, he was ready but not tuned up, looked around him and didn't really put it together. But I think he is better than that and next time we will probably see a better horse. Time will tell."

Killer Instinct represents the Thoroughbred Corporation, whose principal, Prince Ahmed Salman, said: "I promise

you will win the 2,000 Guineas." The Tote had the good sense to offer 20-1 to anyone staking this confidence.

Cecil's strut that "time will tell" is also the scale to apply to Butler, 32, for whom this was just a second winner. His CV embraces four continents — including service with John Dunlop and D Wayne Lukas — and Erik Penner has found a man worthy of the lavish facilities at his new stables on the Ridgeway. The Swedish businessman owns the majority of Butler's 18 horses, many of whom are unraced juveniles, but the remaining 20 boxes will surely be filled soon.

"I was delighted Compton Admiral ran so well in the Chesham, but it was a bit heart-breaking, too," Butler said. "The Royal Lodge here in September will probably be one of his main targets."

Mick Easterby has been around too long to allow anyone to distract attention from such cleverly executed handicaps and coups as those of Sandbaggedgain and Blessingindisguise — the Yorkshireman's flat cap acquiring a lordly air in the winner's enclosure, twice in half an hour. It was a dangerous day to be putting on airs.

MARKET RASEN

THUNDERER
2.15 Night Time, 2.45 Medaille Militaire, 3.15 Mighty Phantom, 3.45 Daraydan, 4.15 George Dillingham, 4.45 Fernwick's Brother.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM SIS

2.15 BILL WELD SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE

- (£1,716; 2m 51 (10yd) (14 runners)
- 1-01 FALLOUT 30 (5) M P 5-11-13 A P McCoy 82
 - 1-02 NIGHT TIME 10 (1) B 5-11-13 A P McCoy 82
 - 1-03 DOCTORS 10 (1) B 5-11-13 A P McCoy 82
 - 1-04 NIGHT TIME 10 (1) B 5-11-13 A P McCoy 82
 - 1-05 NIGHT TIME 10 (1) B 5-11-13 A P McCoy 82
 - 1-06 NIGHT TIME 10 (1) B 5-11-13 A P McCoy 82
 - 1-07 NIGHT TIME 10 (1) B 5-11-13 A P McCoy 82
 - 1-08 NIGHT TIME 10 (1) B 5-11-13 A P McCoy 82
 - 1-09 NIGHT TIME 10 (1) B 5-11-13 A P McCoy 82
 - 1-10 NIGHT TIME 10 (1) B 5-11-13 A P McCoy 82

2.45 AUNT BESSIES YORKSHIRE PUDDING MAIDEN HURDLE

- (£3,324; 2m 11 (10yd) (8)
- 1-01 CHE CHALAN 13 (1) B 5-11-13 A P McCoy 82
 - 1-02 MEDALLIE MILITARE 8 (1) B 5-11-13 A P McCoy 82
 - 1-03 NIGHT TIME 10 (1) B 5-11-13 A P McCoy 82
 - 1-04 NIGHT TIME 10 (1) B 5-11-13 A P McCoy 82
 - 1-05 NIGHT TIME 10 (1) B 5-11-13 A P McCoy 82
 - 1-06 NIGHT TIME 10 (1) B 5-11-13 A P McCoy 82
 - 1-07 NIGHT TIME 10 (1) B 5-11-13 A P McCoy 82
 - 1-08 NIGHT TIME 10 (1) B 5-11-13 A P McCoy 82

3.15 MITSUBISHI SHOGUN NOVICES HURDLE

- (£3,415; 2m 11 (10yd) (5)
- 1-01 NIGHT TIME 10 (1) B 5-11-13 A P McCoy 82
 - 1-02 NIGHT TIME 10 (1) B 5-11-13 A P McCoy 82
 - 1-03 NIGHT TIME 10 (1) B 5-11-13 A P McCoy 82
 - 1-04 NIGHT TIME 10 (1) B 5-11-13 A P McCoy 82
 - 1-05 NIGHT TIME 10 (1) B 5-11-13 A P McCoy 82

3.45 TOTE SUMMER SPECIAL HANDICAP CHASE

- (£13,470; 2m 2m (10) (14)
- 1-01 DARAYDAN 12 (1) B 5-11-13 A P McCoy 82
 - 1-02 NIGHT TIME 10 (1) B 5-11-13 A P McCoy 82
 - 1-03 NIGHT TIME 10 (1) B 5-11-13 A P McCoy 82
 - 1-04 NIGHT TIME 10 (1) B 5-11-13 A P McCoy 82
 - 1-05 NIGHT TIME 10 (1) B 5-11-13 A P McCoy 82

4.15 LILS RACING SUMMER SPECIAL HANDICAP LEADERS

- (£16,318; 2m 11 (10yd) (11)
- 1-01 NIGHT TIME 10 (1) B 5-11-13 A P McCoy 82
 - 1-02 NIGHT TIME 10 (1) B 5-11-13 A P McCoy 82
 - 1-03 NIGHT TIME 10 (1) B 5-11-13 A P McCoy 82
 - 1-04 NIGHT TIME 10 (1) B 5-11-13 A P McCoy 82
 - 1-05 NIGHT TIME 10 (1) B 5-11-13 A P McCoy 82

4.45 UK HYGIENE HANDICAP CHASE

- (£4,416; 2m 11 (10yd) (15)
- 1-01 NIGHT TIME 10 (1) B 5-11-13 A P McCoy 82
 - 1-02 NIGHT TIME 10 (1) B 5-11-13 A P McCoy 82
 - 1-03 NIGHT TIME 10 (1) B 5-11-13 A P McCoy 82
 - 1-04 NIGHT TIME 10 (1) B 5-11-13 A P McCoy 82
 - 1-05 NIGHT TIME 10 (1) B 5-11-13 A P McCoy 82

STRATFORD

THUNDERER
2.20 Master Hyde, 2.55 Newport Knight, 3.30 Silver Standard, 4.05 Avassaksa, 4.35 Lord Esker, 5.10 Superkick.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM (GOOD IN PLACES) SIS

2.20 WILLIAM HILL MAGIC NUMBER HANDICAP HURDLE

- (£2,346; 2m 6 (11yd) (7 runners)
- 1-01 NIGHT TIME 10 (1) B 5-11-13 A P McCoy 82
 - 1-02 NIGHT TIME 10 (1) B 5-11-13 A P McCoy 82
 - 1-03 NIGHT TIME 10 (1) B 5-11-13 A P McCoy 82
 - 1-04 NIGHT TIME 10 (1) B 5-11-13 A P McCoy 82
 - 1-05 NIGHT TIME 10 (1) B 5-11-13 A P McCoy 82

2.55 WILLIAM HILL ACTION LINE NOVICES HURDLE

- (£2,346; 2m 11 (10yd) (9)
- 1-01 NIGHT TIME 10 (1) B 5-11-13 A P McCoy 82
 - 1-02 NIGHT TIME 10 (1) B 5-11-13 A P McCoy 82
 - 1-03 NIGHT TIME 10 (1) B 5-11-13 A P McCoy 82
 - 1-04 NIGHT TIME 10 (1) B 5-11-13 A P McCoy 82
 - 1-05 NIGHT TIME 10 (1) B 5-11-13 A P McCoy 82

3.30 WILLIAM HILL INDEX HANDICAP CHASE

- (£2,824; 2m (11)
- 1-01 NIGHT TIME 10 (1) B 5-11-13 A P McCoy 82
 - 1-02 NIGHT TIME 10 (1) B 5-11-13 A P McCoy 82
 - 1-03 NIGHT TIME 10 (1) B 5-11-13 A P McCoy 82
 - 1-04 NIGHT TIME 10 (1) B 5-11-13 A P McCoy 82
 - 1-05 NIGHT TIME 10 (1) B 5-11-13 A P McCoy 82

4.05 WILLIAM HILL SCRATCH BET NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE

- (£2,346; 2m 6 (11yd) (11)
- 1-01 NIGHT TIME 10 (1) B 5-11-13 A P McCoy 82
 - 1-02 NIGHT TIME 10 (1) B 5-11-13 A P McCoy 82
 - 1-03 NIGHT TIME 10 (1) B 5-11-13 A P McCoy 82
 - 1-04 NIGHT TIME 10 (1) B 5-11-13 A P McCoy 82
 - 1-05 NIGHT TIME 10 (1) B 5-11-13 A P McCoy 82

4.35 WILLIAM HILL GOLDEN SPIRS NOVICES CHASE

- (£2,999; 2m 11 (10yd) (10)
- 1-01 NIGHT TIME 10 (1) B 5-11-13 A P McCoy 82
 - 1-02 NIGHT TIME 10 (1) B 5-11-13 A P McCoy 82
 - 1-03 NIGHT TIME 10 (1) B 5-11-13 A P McCoy 82
 - 1-04 NIGHT TIME 10 (1) B 5-11-13 A P McCoy 82
 - 1-05 NIGHT TIME 10 (1) B 5-11-13 A P McCoy 82

5.10 WILLIAM HILL BET CALL HANDICAP HURDLE

- (£2,276; 2m 11 (10yd) (8)
- 1-01 NIGHT TIME 10 (1) B 5-11-13 A P McCoy 82
 - 1-02 NIGHT TIME 10 (1) B 5-11-13 A P McCoy 82
 - 1-03 NIGHT TIME 10 (1) B 5-11-13 A P McCoy 82
 - 1-04 NIGHT TIME 10 (1) B 5-11-13 A P McCoy 82
 - 1-05 NIGHT TIME 10 (1) B 5-11-13 A P McCoy 82

Old rivals clash at Maisons-Laffitte

BERTOLINI and Black Amber, first and third respectively in the July Stakes at Newmarket, with 14 lengths between them, meet again in the £35,354 Prix Robert Papin (5f 10yd) at Maisons-Laffitte today. Imperfect World and Brooklyn's Storm are their only opponents, but both these fillies have ability.

Imperfect World made it two out of two when beating Peter Savill's highly-rated Zircon by a commanding 2½ lengths in the group three Prix du Bois (5f) at Deauville three weeks ago. Brooklyn's Storm led throughout for a comfortable debut victory at Chantilly last month.

Blinkered first time

ASCOT: 2.00 Give Me A Ring, LINGFIELD PARK: 7.15 Green Jacket, 8.45 Northport, MARKET RASEN: 2.45 Chesham Stakes, 3.45 Daraydan, 4.15 George Dillingham, 4.45 Fernwick's Brother, 5.10 Superkick, 5.45 Night Time, 6.15 Medaille Militaire, 6.45 Happy Valentine, 7.15 Mighty Phantom, 7.45 Night Time, 8.15 Medaille Militaire, 8.45 Happy Valentine, 9.15 Mighty Phantom, 9.45 Night Time, 10.15 Medaille Militaire, 10.45 Happy Valentine, 11.15 Mighty Phantom, 11.45 Night Time, 12.15 Medaille Militaire, 12.45 Happy Valentine, 1.15 Mighty Phantom, 1.45 Night Time, 2.15 Medaille Militaire, 2.45 Happy Valentine, 3.15 Mighty Phantom, 3.45 Night Time, 4.15 Medaille Militaire, 4.45 Happy Valentine, 5.15 Mighty Phantom, 5.45 Night Time, 6.15 Medaille Militaire, 6.45 Happy Valentine, 7.15 Mighty Phantom, 7.45 Night Time, 8.15 Medaille Militaire, 8.45 Happy Valentine, 9.15 Mighty Phantom, 9.45 Night Time, 10.15 Medaille Militaire, 10.45 Happy Valentine, 11.15 Mighty Phantom, 11.45 Night Time, 12.15 Medaille 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Wild Sky can take Ascot by storm

ASCOT BBC1

2.00: In a tight handicap, Song Of Freedom gets the nod judged on his fourth behind Porto Foricos in the John Smith's Cup at York. The John Gosden-trained turfing specialist recorded a career-best time and form performance there and a reproduction of that effort would suffice, although he is not the most reliable of performers. A gamble on Give Me A Ring was justly foisted by Bold Fawn at Newmarket.

The combination of blinkers and knee cap will encourage support but Thornton's front-runner Chris Thornton's front-runner will face a challenge for the lead from Supreme Sound and Party Romance.

2.35: Wannabe Grand showed a sparkling turn of foot to land the Cherry Hinton Stakes, but will have to be something special to defy a penalty here. The David Loder-trained Spirit Willing was 2½ lengths adrift



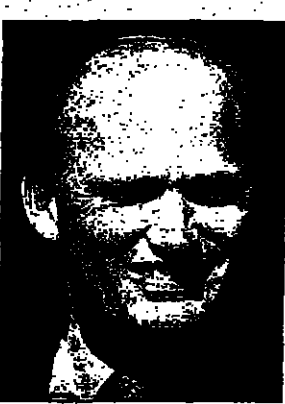
TODAY'S RACES ON TELEVISION

reverse the form on 2lb better terms as he has a plum stands' side draw. Silk St John edged out Sugarfoot at Newbury last time but prefers new ground and Sugarfoot, fourth in the Royal Hunt Cup, could prove the main danger.

RICHARD EVANS
MARKET RASEN CHANNEL 4

3.15: Mighty Phantom's only serious rival unseated at the first flight when she won easily at Hereford. She had caused trouble at the start, and it will be interesting to note her response of the bit to Kazawari, who looked another probable French import when always travelling well at Worcester.

3.45: Daraydan, inexperienced over fences, is not always co-operative. Nor has he been indulged by the handicapper, though he will prosper in the distance. Time For A Run is better over two miles and tends to finds



Godden: early chance

little, but should at least get the decent pace he needs from Gower-Slave, who ideally needs further. Algaikawaas, lightly raced over fences, likes fast ground and shaped adequately on his return.

4.15: Mr Moriarty and Indian Jockey should set a pace to suit the consistent Superpet, while Pradeflighter may have been turned out too quickly at

Unoxeter and could reverse form with Routing. But Non Vintage, thrown in at his best, and Call My Guest, who all but fell last time, are disappointing. Terdad and Loveyomotions, open to improvement, are fit from the flat, but Maguire's booking suggests Lightening Quest, a course winner, is fit to resume his progress.

4.45: The hampered Tapach and Ruth's Boy emerged with credit from a more competitive race here last time. Ardshill is interesting on his British debut, having largely raced on softer ground in Ireland. Irish Dominion finished last over hurdles on his first start for a new trainer and is out of the handicap, but may have a squeak returning to fences. This Is My Life has jumping problems, while Fenwick's Brother and Robara did not reproduce a good previous run last time, and Ilewain is unreliable.

CHRIS McGRATH

REDCAR

THUNDERER
8.35 Mouchie, 7.05 Cashki, 7.35 Another Wyn-Bank, 8.05 Lady Lauren, 8.35 Salska, 9.05 Algrit.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM (FIRM IN PLACES)
DRAW: 6F-7F, HIGH NUMBERS BEST

6.35 CLEVELAND CLASSIFIED

STAKES (All-weather: £1,800; 7f) (11 runners)
1 206 ROBELOW 17 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
2 300 BILLYCAN 26 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
3 001 BILLYCAN 26 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
4 001 BILLYCAN 26 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
5 001 BILLYCAN 26 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
6 001 BILLYCAN 26 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
7 001 BILLYCAN 26 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
8 001 BILLYCAN 26 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
9 001 BILLYCAN 26 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
10 001 BILLYCAN 26 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
11 001 BILLYCAN 26 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0

7.05 RYDFOT VEHICLE

NURSERY HANDICAP (2-Y-O: £3,340; 7f) (8)
1 541 RED CHARGER 2 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
2 222 MAYBE SPECIAL 27 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
3 386 THE HULLER 10 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
4 211 CASHKI 25 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
5 001 BILLYCAN 26 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
6 001 BILLYCAN 26 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
7 001 BILLYCAN 26 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
8 001 BILLYCAN 26 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0

7.35 SUNDERLAND SELLING

STAKES (3-Y-O: £1,982; 1m 3f) (13)
1 001 BILLYCAN 26 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
2 001 BILLYCAN 26 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
3 001 BILLYCAN 26 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
4 001 BILLYCAN 26 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
5 001 BILLYCAN 26 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
6 001 BILLYCAN 26 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
7 001 BILLYCAN 26 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
8 001 BILLYCAN 26 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
9 001 BILLYCAN 26 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
10 001 BILLYCAN 26 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
11 001 BILLYCAN 26 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
12 001 BILLYCAN 26 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
13 001 BILLYCAN 26 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0

8.05 NORTH YORKSHIRE

MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-O: £2,973; 6f) (7)
1 224 BOLLIN 14 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
2 001 BILLYCAN 26 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
3 001 BILLYCAN 26 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
4 001 BILLYCAN 26 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
5 001 BILLYCAN 26 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
6 001 BILLYCAN 26 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
7 001 BILLYCAN 26 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0

8.35 MIDDLESBROUGH HANDICAP

(£3,600; 2m 4f) (9)
1 112 SALSKA 7 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
2 112 SALSKA 7 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
3 112 SALSKA 7 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
4 112 SALSKA 7 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
5 112 SALSKA 7 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
6 112 SALSKA 7 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
7 112 SALSKA 7 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
8 112 SALSKA 7 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
9 112 SALSKA 7 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0

9.05 RICHMOND HANDICAP

(3-Y-O: £3,628; 1m 2f) (9)
1 304 ALLRIGHT 4 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
2 04 SILENT WARRIOR 29 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
3 100 SCORER 30 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
4 224 BOLSHO STAR 8 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
5 521 PLEASANT DREAMS 6 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
6 001 BILLYCAN 26 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
7 001 BILLYCAN 26 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
8 001 BILLYCAN 26 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
9 001 BILLYCAN 26 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: M Prescott, 12 winners from 17 runners, 35.3%; E Doolan, 6 from 18, 33.3%; J Dunlop, 16 from 54, 29.6%; M Shuttle, 6 from 30, 20.0%; M Johnston, 17 from 135, 12.6%; J Berry, 16 from 135, 11.8%.

RACING NEXT WEEK

MONDAY: Ffosfabon (first race, 2.00), Newcastle (2.15), Windsor (6.15), Yorkmouth (6.00).
TUESDAY: Goodwood (BBC, 2.15), Beverley (2.00).
WEDNESDAY: Goodwood (BBC, 2.15), Doncaster (6.25), Epsom (6.10), Sedgemoor (2.30).
THURSDAY: Goodwood (BBC, 2.15), Doncaster (2.00), Newton Abbot (2.25).
FRIDAY: Goodwood (BBC, 2.15), Thackley (2.05), Newmarket (6.15), Salisbury (6.00), Bangor (2.25).
SATURDAY: Goodwood (BBC, 2.15), Newmarket (6.20), Thackley (2.05), Harrogate (6.50), Lingfield Park (6.05), Worcester (2.30), Market Rasen (6.15).
SUNDAY: Chester (2.20), Newcastle (2.10), Sandown Park (2.00).
Flat meetings in bold.

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Ascot
Going: good to firm (good in places)
1.2.15 (9) 1, Cape George (Dane O'Neil, 33-1); 2, Carlo Di Gold (S. J. Haggis, 10-1); 3, The Duke (D. J. Kildea, 10-1); 4, The Duke (D. J. Kildea, 10-1); 5, The Duke (D. J. Kildea, 10-1); 6, The Duke (D. J. Kildea, 10-1); 7, The Duke (D. J. Kildea, 10-1); 8, The Duke (D. J. Kildea, 10-1); 9, The Duke (D. J. Kildea, 10-1).

6.25 WHISKY FILLES HANDICAP

(£2,304; 1m 4f) (11 runners)
1 021 BACK ROW 12 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
2 21 BULLOCKS LURE 22 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
3 40 ARSENTE 54 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
4 001 BILLYCAN 26 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
5 200 POTWAVE 10 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
6 001 BILLYCAN 26 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
7 001 BILLYCAN 26 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
8 001 BILLYCAN 26 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
9 001 BILLYCAN 26 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
10 001 BILLYCAN 26 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
11 001 BILLYCAN 26 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0

6.55 VODKA CLAIMING STAKES

(2-Y-O: £2,304; 6f) (11)
1 001 BILLYCAN 26 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
2 001 BILLYCAN 26 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
3 001 BILLYCAN 26 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
4 001 BILLYCAN 26 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
5 001 BILLYCAN 26 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
6 001 BILLYCAN 26 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
7 001 BILLYCAN 26 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
8 001 BILLYCAN 26 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
9 001 BILLYCAN 26 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
10 001 BILLYCAN 26 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
11 001 BILLYCAN 26 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0

7.25 DERRY BUILDING SERVICES MEDIAN

AUCTION MAIDEN FILLES STAKES (2-Y-O: £2,304; 7f) (8)
1 001 BILLYCAN 26 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
2 001 BILLYCAN 26 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
3 001 BILLYCAN 26 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
4 001 BILLYCAN 26 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
5 001 BILLYCAN 26 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
6 001 BILLYCAN 26 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
7 001 BILLYCAN 26 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
8 001 BILLYCAN 26 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0

7.55 STANDER HOMES (HOLDINGS) HANDICAP

(£3,591; 7f) (11)
1 131 BULLOCKS LURE 22 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
2 131 BULLOCKS LURE 22 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
3 131 BULLOCKS LURE 22 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
4 131 BULLOCKS LURE 22 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
5 131 BULLOCKS LURE 22 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
6 131 BULLOCKS LURE 22 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
7 131 BULLOCKS LURE 22 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
8 131 BULLOCKS LURE 22 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
9 131 BULLOCKS LURE 22 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
10 131 BULLOCKS LURE 22 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
11 131 BULLOCKS LURE 22 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0

8.25 PERIOD SELLING STAKES

(£1,882; 1m 4f) (7)
1 021 BANNERET 15 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
2 021 BANNERET 15 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
3 021 BANNERET 15 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
4 021 BANNERET 15 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
5 021 BANNERET 15 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
6 021 BANNERET 15 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
7 021 BANNERET 15 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0

8.55 DAVID HAYNES AND PAUL SHORT STORY

HANDICAP (£3,591; 5f) (13)
1 001 BILLYCAN 26 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
2 001 BILLYCAN 26 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
3 001 BILLYCAN 26 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
4 001 BILLYCAN 26 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
5 001 BILLYCAN 26 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
6 001 BILLYCAN 26 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
7 001 BILLYCAN 26 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
8 001 BILLYCAN 26 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
9 001 BILLYCAN 26 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
10 001 BILLYCAN 26 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
11 001 BILLYCAN 26 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
12 001 BILLYCAN 26 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
13 001 BILLYCAN 26 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: A Kellaway, 5 winners from 10 runners, 50.0%; J S. Moore, 6 from 18, 33.3%; M Prescott, 21 from 54, 38.9%; M Shuttle, 6 from 30, 20.0%; W O'Donnell, 19 from 22, 86.4%; M Johnston, 6 from 45, 13.3%.

Chance for Fruits of Love

Starborough, runner-up to All-Royal in last season's Sussex Stakes, heads a list of 13 horses confirmed yesterday for this year's renewal at Goodwood on Wednesday. Formerly trained by David Loder, Starborough joined Godolphin at the end of last term but has only had one race since when a below-par sixth over 1¼ miles in Hong Kong in April. Sheikh Mohammed's operation has also entered Fly To The Stars, but Godolphin's top miler, Intikhab, bypasses Goodwood in favour of the Prix Jacques Le Marois at Deauville on August 16.

ASCOT

Going: good to firm (good in places)
DRAW: 6F-7F, HIGH NUMBERS BEST

6.35 CLEVELAND CLASSIFIED

STAKES (All-weather: £1,800; 7f) (11 runners)
1 206 ROBELOW 17 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
2 300 BILLYCAN 26 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
3 001 BILLYCAN 26 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
4 001 BILLYCAN 26 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
5 001 BILLYCAN 26 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
6 001 BILLYCAN 26 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
7 001 BILLYCAN 26 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
8 001 BILLYCAN 26 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
9 001 BILLYCAN 26 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
10 001 BILLYCAN 26 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
11 001 BILLYCAN 26 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0

7.05 RYDFOT VEHICLE

NURSERY HANDICAP (2-Y-O: £3,340; 7f) (8)
1 541 RED CHARGER 2 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
2 222 MAYBE SPECIAL 27 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
3 386 THE HULLER 10 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
4 211 CASHKI 25 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
5 001 BILLYCAN 26 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
6 001 BILLYCAN 26 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
7 001 BILLYCAN 26 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
8 001 BILLYCAN 26 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0

7.35 SUNDERLAND SELLING

STAKES (3-Y-O: £1,982; 1m 3f) (13)
1 001 BILLYCAN 26 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
2 001 BILLYCAN 26 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
3 001 BILLYCAN 26 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
4 001 BILLYCAN 26 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
5 001 BILLYCAN 26 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
6 001 BILLYCAN 26 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
7 001 BILLYCAN 26 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
8 001 BILLYCAN 26 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
9 001 BILLYCAN 26 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
10 001 BILLYCAN 26 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
11 001 BILLYCAN 26 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
12 001 BILLYCAN 26 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
13 001 BILLYCAN 26 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0

8.05 NORTH YORKSHIRE

MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-O: £2,973; 6f) (7)
1 224 BOLLIN 14 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
2 001 BILLYCAN 26 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
3 001 BILLYCAN 26 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
4 001 BILLYCAN 26 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
5 001 BILLYCAN 26 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
6 001 BILLYCAN 26 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
7 001 BILLYCAN 26 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0

8.35 MIDDLESBROUGH HANDICAP

(£3,600; 2m 4f) (9)
1 112 SALSKA 7 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
2 112 SALSKA 7 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
3 112 SALSKA 7 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
4 112 SALSKA 7 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
5 112 SALSKA 7 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
6 112 SALSKA 7 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
7 112 SALSKA 7 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
8 112 SALSKA 7 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
9 112 SALSKA 7 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0

9.05 RICHMOND HANDICAP

(3-Y-O: £3,628; 1m 2f) (9)
1 304 ALLRIGHT 4 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
2 04 SILENT WARRIOR 29 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
3 100 SCORER 30 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
4 224 BOLSHO STAR 8 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
5 521 PLEASANT DREAMS 6 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
6 001 BILLYCAN 26 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
7 001 BILLYCAN 26 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
8 001 BILLYCAN 26 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0
9 001 BILLYCAN 26 (0.7) M J Scales 7-11-0

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THURSDAY: Goodwood (BBC, 2.15), Doncaster (2.00), Newton Abbot (2.25).
FRIDAY: Goodwood (BBC, 2.15), Thackley (2.05), Newmarket (6.15), Salisbury (6.00), Bangor (2.25).
SATURDAY: Goodwood (BBC, 2.15), Newmarket (6.20), Thackley (2.05), Harrogate (6.50), Lingfield Park (6.05), Worcester (2.30), Market Rasen (6.15).
SUNDAY: Chester (2.20), Newcastle (2.10), Sandown Park (2.00).
Flat meetings in bold.

Wolverhampton

Going: good
1.25 (1m 100y) 1, Sualthob (G. Semeray, 5-4 fav); 2, Yarnon Oliver (9-2); 3, Iselin Symphony (4-1); 4, Non NFF Red Rock (N. K. McCallaghan, 10-1); 5, The Duke (D. J. Kildea, 10-1); 6, The Duke (D. J. Kildea, 10-1); 7, The Duke (D. J. Kildea, 10-1); 8, The Duke (D. J. Kildea, 10-1); 9, The Duke (D. J. Kildea, 10-1); 10, The Duke (D. J. Kildea, 10-1); 11, The Duke (D. J. Kildea, 10-1); 12, The Duke (D. J. Kildea, 10-1); 13, The Duke (D. J. Kildea, 10-1); 14, The Duke (D. J. Kildea, 10-1); 15, The Duke (D. J. Kildea, 10-1); 16, The Duke (D. J. Kildea, 10-1); 17, The Duke (D. J. Kildea, 10-1); 18, The Duke (D. J. Kildea, 10-1); 19, The Duke (D. J. Kildea, 10-1); 20, The Duke (D. J. Kildea, 10-1); 21, The Duke (D. J. Kildea, 10-1); 22, The Duke (D. J. Kildea, 10-1); 23, The Duke (D. J. Kildea, 10-1); 24, The Duke (D. J. Kildea, 10-1); 25, The Duke (D. J. Kildea, 10-1); 26, The Duke (D. J. Kildea, 10-1); 27, The Duke (D. J. Kildea, 10-1); 28, The Duke (D. J. Kildea, 10-1); 29, The Duke (D. J. Kildea, 10-1); 30, The Duke (D. J. Kildea, 10-1); 31, The Duke (D. J. Kildea, 10-1); 32, The Duke (D. J. Kildea, 10-1); 33, The Duke (D. J. Kildea, 10-1); 34, The Duke (D. J. Kildea, 10-1); 35, The Duke (D. J. Kildea, 10-1); 36, The Duke (D. J. Kildea, 10-1); 37, The Duke (D. J. Kildea, 10-1); 38, The Duke (D. J. Kildea, 10-1); 39, The Duke (D. J. Kildea, 10-1); 40, The Duke (D. J. Kildea, 10-1); 41, The Duke (D. J. Kildea, 10-1); 42, The Duke (D. J. Kildea, 10-1); 43, The Duke (D. J. Kildea, 10-1); 44, The Duke (D. J. Kildea, 10-1); 45, The Duke (D. J. Kildea, 10-1); 46, The Duke (D. J. Kildea, 10-1); 47, The Duke (D. J. Kildea, 10-1); 48, The Duke (D. J. Kildea, 10-1); 49, The Duke (D. J. Kildea, 10-1); 50, The Duke (D. J. Kildea, 10-1); 51, The Duke (D. J. Kildea, 10-1); 52, The Duke (D. J. Kildea, 10-1); 53, The Duke (D. J. Kildea, 10-1); 54, The Duke (D. J. Kildea, 10-1); 55, The Duke (D. J. Kildea, 10-1); 56, The Duke (D. J. Kildea, 10-1); 57, The Duke (D. J. Kildea, 10-1); 58, The Duke (D. J. Kildea, 10-1); 59, The Duke (D. J. Kildea, 10-1); 60, The Duke (D. J. Kildea, 10-1); 61, The Duke (D. J. Kildea, 10-1); 62, The Duke (D. J. Kildea, 10-1); 63, The Duke (D. J. Kildea, 10-1); 64, The Duke (D. J. Kildea, 10-1); 65, The Duke (D. J. Kildea, 10-1); 66, The Duke (D. J. Kildea, 10-1); 67, The Duke (D. J. Kildea, 10-1); 68, The Duke (D. J. Kildea, 10-1); 69, The Duke (D. J. Kildea, 10-1); 70, The Duke (D. J. Kildea, 10-1); 71, The Duke (D. J. Kildea, 10-1); 72, The Duke (D. J. Kildea, 10-1); 73, The Duke (D. J. Kildea, 10-1); 74, The Duke (D. J. Kildea, 10-1); 75, The Duke (D. J. Kildea, 10-1); 76, The Duke (D. J. Kildea, 10-1); 77, The Duke (D. J. Kildea, 10-1); 78, The Duke (D. J. Kildea, 10-1); 79, The Duke (D. J. Kildea, 10-1); 80, The

FOOTBALL

Unsworth moves to Aston Villa for £3m

By Matt Dickinson

ASTON VILLA have already spent some of the money they expect to make from the sale of Dwight Yorke to Manchester United by purchasing David Unsworth from West Ham United for £3 million yesterday.

Aberedeen under the Bosman ruling last month. They have been watching the Italian for a year. "We haven't spoken to the player yet," Robson said yesterday. "The first he will know is when he talks with his club and he'll then have a lot of thinking to do. I'm hopeful that he'll sign soon but I won't put a timescale on it."



Unsworth: failed to settle

1995 against Japan. "I was desperate to keep him," Harry Redknapp, the West Ham manager, said, "but he wanted to get back nearer home and he can travel from there every day now. I like David, he's a terrific lad and I'd do a great job of it. Now I've got to go out and find a replacement."

Middlesbrough are expected to make their third purchase from Internazionale after agreeing a £5 million fee with the Italian club for Francesco Moriero. The 29-year-old winger is expected to have talks with Bryan Robson, the Middlesbrough manager, in the next few days.

Manchester United have again been delayed because the Cameroon defender has not fully recovered from a fractured fibula. Alex Ferguson, the United manager, had hoped that fitness tests would enable him to complete the deal this week, but Foe has been forced to return to Lens, his club in France, to complete his rehabilitation.

Harry Kewell, Leeds United's Australian international, is likely to miss the start of the season after damaging ankle ligaments during the club's tour of Sweden. The 19-year-old was forced to fly home and is likely to be ruled out for a month.

Dick Advocaat, manager of Rangers, agreed the transfer of Daniel Prodan from Atlético Madrid for £2 million yesterday. The Romania international is expected to sign a four-year contract at the weekend, provided he is granted a work permit.



Wenger is refusing to sign Kluitert from AC Milan because it would break the wage structure at Highbury

Wenger takes moral stance

Arsène Wenger is prepared to pass up the opportunity of signing Ronald de Boer and Patrick Kluitert, both stars of the Holland World Cup side, on matters of contractual principle. It is an admirable protest and one only hopes that it does not turn out to be a naive one.

In a summer when Chelsea are willing to pay Brian Laudrup more than £40,000 a week and Manchester United are contemplating exchanging £16 million of assets for Dwight Yorke, football's loose grip on financial reality appears to have slipped altogether. Wenger is adamant, though, that Arsenal will not inflate what is already a "crazy" market for players and disclosed the lengths to which the Double-winners of last season are prepared to go to make a unilateral stand — even if it appears to be to their immediate detriment.

De Boer will face a Dutch tribunal on Tuesday to argue that he should be released from a lucrative six-year contract with Ajax. This summer he has revealed publicly his wish to join Arsenal, but has been attempting to lure him. That transfer depended on Ajax agreeing to sell for a proposed £7 million fee. The Dutch club refused and Wenger will not countenance

a deal that involves De Boer defying his present employers through a tribunal. "I don't think we would sign him as a matter of principle," Wenger said. "It would destroy every regulation and contract in the world. It cannot be right. We cannot live in a world where a contract means nothing. It is time for football to react because it is already damaged and could get worse. The world belongs to agents and clubs are losing their power." Of course, a cynic might argue that Wenger is able to make his worthy stand because he may in fact be unable to sign De Boer, who is also being courted by Barcelona and Real Madrid. But the seriousness of his, and Arsenal's, resistance to football's potentially self-destructive trends should not be underestimated.

Manchester United have missed out on several of the world's best players — Gabriel Batistuta and Laurent Blanc among them — because they would not disrupt their wage structure, and similar prudence at Highbury could now cost them the signature of Patrick Kluitert. Talks with the Holland striker, who is desperate to leave AC Milan, have reached an impasse with Kluitert believed to be asking for at least £30,000 a week. That would make him the highest-paid player at Highbury, and would provoke a stampede of Arsenal players requesting a pay rise. Wenger there-fore admits that the transfer is unlikely. "We have not bought anyone because people are going crazy and we refuse to," he said. "Arsenal is about a big team spirit. I refuse to dismantle that by bringing in players on wages we can't afford. If it disrupts the dressing-room, we lose more than we gain. "This team has won the Double with players who have not come here on high

Matt Dickinson on the reasons why Arsenal will not sign a Dutch duo

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wages. I like Kluitert's game but, at the moment, it is unlikely because of the contract. I know it could weaken Arsenal's position but you can only work to your own values."

Wenger's own wage demands appear to have fallen within the club's pay scale to agree a new contract in the next fortnight. His present deal has only 12 months to run and he is likely to sign a two-year extension. Meanwhile, Arsenal received clearance from the Football Association yesterday to play their European Champions' League home matches at Wembley. The London club attempted to buy the ground earlier this year and Wenger believes that the experiment with European matches will pave the way for a move from Highbury. "It is a gamble to play at Wembley," he said, "because we may be less comfortable, but it shows that in the long term we can't imagine staying at Highbury for ever. We must improve or die."

European competition, though, will not be made a priority at the club as it was, detrimentally so, at Manchester United last season. "We will go for the championship first and the Champions' League second," Wenger said.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Rovers take control of Memorial Ground

FOOTBALL: Bristol Rovers Football Club has bought the Memorial Ground from the receivers representing Bristol Rugby Club for £10,000. The rugby club went into liquidation on Thursday when Arthur Holmes, the club chairman, decided that he could no longer shoulder its mounting debts. Rovers had invested £2.3 million in the Memorial Ground in April and have shared the ground with the rugby club for the past two seasons. Geoff Dunford, the Rovers vice-chairman, said: "The important thing now is that the future of Rovers at the stadium has been safeguarded. I would like to see a rugby club play again at the ground."

Sole seed survives

TENNIS: Andrei Cherkasov, of Russia, the sole surviving seed, beat Olivier Malcor, of France, yesterday to reach the semi-finals of the Northern Electric Open in Newcastle. Cherkasov, once ranked No 13 in the world, overcame a player ranked more than 165 places below him 3-6, 6-3, 6-4. The British doubles pair of Tony Spinks and David Sherwood face Nebojsa Djordjevic and Dusan Vemic, the top seeds from Yugoslavia, in the semi-finals today.

Wiggins lowers record

CYCLING: Bradley Wiggins, Britain's new junior world pursuit champion, broke his own national one-kilometre time-trial record last night to retain his title in Manchester (Peter Bryan writes). He finished in 1min 8.21sec, an improvement of 0.72sec on his 1997 record. He was some way ahead of Ben Hallam, a 15-year-old schoolboy who had elected to upgrade to the junior competition. Hallam and Wiggins both ride for Team Brit.

Rios races through

TENNIS: Marcelo Rios, left, made short work of Boris Becker to reach the semi-finals of the Mercedes Cup in Stuttgart yesterday. Rios halted Becker's good run by winning 6-2, 6-0. Carlos Moya, the French Open champion, beat Fernando Vicente, his fellow Spaniard, 3-6, 6-3, 6-2 to secure his semi-final place, where he will play Gustavo Kuerten.

Gregson a stroke clear

GOLF: Malcolm Gregson, the former Ryder Cup player, scored 65 in the opening round of the Credit Suisse Seniors Open at Bad Ragaz, near Zurich, yesterday. Gregson holds a one-stroke lead on a course where he lost a playoff to Brian Waines last year. Three players had rounds of 66, including Bobby Verwey, of South Africa, who is in excellent form after winning the Lawrence Batley Seniors tournament three weeks ago.

Collin falls to Czech

TENNIS: Hannah Collin, the last Great Britain representative in the singles draw of the European under-16 championships at Queenswood School, Hatfield, failed to make the semi-finals of the girls' event, losing 6-1, 6-2 to Daniela Bedanova, of the Czech Republic. Bedanova, seeded No 3, benefited from a series of unforced errors by the Briton, the No 8 seed from Surrey, who also delivered two many double faults for her serve to be effective.

British hopes live on

ORIENTEERING: Heather Monro kept alive British interest in the World Cup with a seventh place at the end of the five-day event in Sweden after Yvette Hague, the overall leader, dropped out of the fourth individual race in the series because of work commitments. Victory went to Hanne Staffe, the world champion from Norway, but Monro recorded a time just two seconds behind the Norwegian in the chasing-start race yesterday.

Poles refuse to co-operate

THE Polish sports minister fuelled the dispute with Fifa and Uefa, football's world and European governing bodies, yesterday by refusing to co-operate with their request to reinstate football officials suspended in May. Teams from Poland could be barred from international competitions unless the dispute is settled by August 7.

England are due to meet Poland in the European championship qualifying competition, with the first game at Wembley in March next year. Manchester United may play Widzew Lodz in the second European Cup qualifying round next month. "I cannot accept the Fifa

positions when access to their files showed there were no irregularities, he said. "The government is using its powers according to the law," he said. "The fact that they have been refusing to submit to a probe for many months must arouse suspicion." South Korea's leading football administrator has dismissed as "nonsense" reports that his country was seeking a way to back out of hosting the 2002 World Cup finals with Japan. Chung Mong-joon, a Fifa vice-president and head of the South Korean Football Association, said: "At the moment, we are going ahead with plans as scheduled."

RUGBY UNION

All Blacks search for answers

DEFEAT by Australia two weeks ago, followed by South Africa's narrow victory over the Wallabies last week, has left New Zealand with points to prove, collectively and individually, in Wellington today.

The third match in the southern hemisphere's tri-nation series has assumed great importance for the All Blacks. Several of their leading players — not to mention John Hart, the coach — were heavily criticised after Australia beat them 24-16.

the best of games against Australia, but Spencer must be able to control the pivotal position. He remains confident. "For me, it's been pretty good at Athletic Park and against the Boks, but they will obviously look to target me in this game and I'm looking forward to it. There's nothing like a bit of pressure," Spencer said. South Africa have had to make an enforced change to their original selection. Johan Erasmus, the dynamic young flanker, has a leg infection, ruling him out. Andrew Aitken, the former Oxford University Blue, takes his place.

Nick Mallett, the South Africa coach, feels that his players can do better. "After a personal assessment, only five players came out with an average or better game (against Australia)," he said. "Ten guys were below par. The players know they didn't perform as a team."

Brian Baister, the Rugby Football Union management board chairman, has appointed Ken Whitehead as the RFU's acting chief executive. Whitehead has been performing the role for procedural matters in recent months. Justin Marshall, the scrum half, received widespread condemnation for his performance. He has been an influential figure for the All Blacks in the past couple of years but it was commonly believed that Hart's decision to play him against Australia came too early after serious injury. The paucity of other options in the No 9 jersey meant that Hart took a gamble, and it backfired.

FOR THE RECORD

Table with multiple columns containing sports records for BASEBALL, NATIONAL LEAGUE, BOWLS, CRICKET, GOLF, HOCKEY, MOTOR RALLYING, and TENNIS. Includes names of players and their respective achievements.

ORIENTEERING

Table containing orienteering records, including names of participants and their times for various events.

Advertisement for 'Sharehold' featuring a large image of a person and text promoting investment services. Includes the text 'Sharehold' and 'Duty to ap serving'.

Immunity of expert witness from suit

Stanton and Another v Callaghan and Others

Before Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Oton and Lord Justice Chadwick.

[Judgment July 8]

An action for negligence and breach of contract was not to be brought against an expert witness by the party retaining him in respect of work done preparing a report and a joint statement prior to, and in contemplation of a trial where that expert did not give evidence.

The expert's immunity from suit was founded on the requirement of public policy that in the interests of the administration of justice a witness should not be inhibited from giving frank and fearless evidence.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment so held allowing an interlocutory appeal by the defendants, Mr Brian Callaghan, Brian Callaghan and Partners, from Judge Ronald Walker, QC, sitting as a deputy High Court judge, who had, inter alia, refused to strike out an action brought against them by the plaintiffs, Mr and Mrs Philip Stanton.

Mr Rupert Jackson, QC, and Mr David Sears for the defendants; Mr Jonathan Coggins for the plaintiffs.

LORD JUSTICE CHADWICK said that the appeal raised the question whether claims for negligence and breach of contract could be brought by a party to pending proceedings against an expert whose evidence he proposed to call in those proceedings where the claims were said to arise out of the expert's conduct in preparing, in conjunction with the expert instructed by the other party to those proceedings, a joint statement indicating what part of the evidence which, respectively, they were proposing to give at trial were or were not in issue.

The preparation of such a statement was required in Order 38, rule 38 of the Rules of the Supreme Court.

The case arose out of the plaintiffs' proceedings against the defendants commenced in 1986 in respect of the subsidence of their property. They had retained Mr Callaghan to provide expert advice in support of their claim.

In the light of Mr Callaghan's final report and the agreed joint statement he had prepared with the insurers' expert that contained their agreement as to remedial work, the plaintiffs shortly before the trial had accepted £16,000 paid into court by the insurers.

In the current proceedings the plaintiffs alleged that the remedial work to the property proposed by Mr Callaghan in his final report and in the joint statement was not feasible and would not have been effective to return the property to stability and to its full market value and that in so advising Mr Callaghan acted negligently and in breach of implied terms in his contract of retainer.

On the application to strike out the claim the defendants assumed that those allegations, albeit denied by the

defendants, could be established at trial. The proposition that the defendants could escape liability for negligence on the ground that the advice as to the remedial work as a remedy for subsidence was given in the context of litigation required careful scrutiny.

Mr Callaghan was a professional man who undertook for reward to provide advice within his expertise.

The expectation of those who engaged him must have been that he would exercise the care and attention appropriate to what he was engaged to do. But for the fact that he was a potential witness in pending proceedings there could be no doubt that the law would provide a remedy if that expectation was not fulfilled.

But equally there was no doubt that the law recognised immunity from suit in relation to certain things done in the course of preparing for, or taking part in, a trial. It did so on the basis of a supervening public interest which transcended the need to provide a remedy in the individual case.

His Lordship, having referred to *Silcott v Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis* (The Times July 9, 1996; (1996) 8 Admin LR 633; *Marrinan Vihart* (1963) 1 QB 234; *Evans v London Hospital Medical College* (University of London) (1968) 1 WLR 184; *A (Minors) v Bedfordshire County Council* (1995) 2 AC 633; *Randall v Worsley* (1969) 1 AC 191; *Saif Ali v Sydney Mitchell & Co* (1980) 43 All ER 913; *Priar* (1971) AC 470; *Palmer v Durnford* (1971) 119 QJ 483 and *Lamell v Dennis Faulkner &*

Alsoop (1994) 5 Med LR 268, said that those authorities supported the following propositions:

- 1 An expert witness who gave evidence at a trial was immune from suit in respect of anything he said in court.
- 2 Where an expert witness gave evidence at a trial the immunity which he would enjoy would not be circumscribed by a suit based on the tort itself.
- 3 The immunity did not extend to protect an expert who had been retained to advise as to the merits of a party's claim in litigation from a suit by the party by whom he had been retained in respect of that advice, notwithstanding that it was in contemplation at the time when the advice was given that the expert would be a witness at the trial if that litigation were to proceed.

But it had not been decided by any binding authority whether an expert was immune from suit by the party by whom he had been retained in respect of the contents of a report which he prepared for the purpose of exchange prior to trial in circumstances where he did not, in the event, give evidence at the trial.

If it was to be immunity in such circumstances, it had to be founded on some identifiable ground of public policy. The only such ground was that identified by Lord Morris of Borth-y-Gest in *Randall v Worsley* (supra): "It has always been the policy of the law to ensure that trials are conducted without avoidable strains and tensions of alarm and fear."

Thus the claim for immunity in a case like the present had to be based, in any event, this case was very different.

Apert, possibly, from the allegation about cocaine, the attack on the witnesses was no more than the robust pursuit of a legitimate defence case.

If evidence of good character were held to be properly before the jury in this case it was difficult to see how any defence that challenged the veracity of the prosecution account of events would not lead to the same conclusion. That was plainly not what the court in *O'Connor* had in mind.

Accordingly, the lack of previous convictions on the part of the witnesses should not have been admitted. In a case where the defence consisted almost entirely of an attack on the veracity of the evidence in the case, it was impossible to say that the conviction was safe in the circumstances.

As the appellant had already served the equivalent of a 16-month sentence it would not be proper to employ public funds in a further trial.

Solicitors: Crown Prosecution Service, Harrow.

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As the appellant had already served the equivalent of a 16-month sentence it would not be proper to employ public funds in a further trial.

Solicitors: Crown Prosecution Service, Harrow.

Evidence of witnesses' character has no probative value

Regina v Hamilton

Before Lord Justice Buxton, Mr Justice Mitchell and Judge Hodson

[Reasons June 26]

Evidence of good character called by the prosecution to bolster the testimony of prosecution witnesses had no probative value in relation to any issue in the case and was to be excluded on the ground of collateralia.

So far as issues of the witnesses' character were concerned, those were concluded, without recourse to any such evidence, by the finality of the witness's answer to specific allegations.

The Court of Appeal, Criminal Division, so held in giving reasons for allowing an appeal by Erroll Hamilton against his conviction in September 1997 at Harrow Crown Court (Mr Assistant Recorder Justin Phillips and a jury) of unlawful wounding, for which he was sentenced to two years imprisonment.

Mr Michael Baker, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals,

for the appellant, Mr John Hulme for the Crown.

LORD JUSTICE BUXTON said that while in a bar the appellant had been gratuitously abusive to the victim, Mr Myers, and had then lunged at him with a broken glass, stabbing him in the head. Mr Myers and his girlfriend gave evidence to that effect.

The appellant, on advice, did not give evidence. His defence consisted of a strong attack, through his counsel, on the evidence of the witnesses, alleging that it was Mr Myers who had been the aggressor, that Mr Myers had been in the bar for the purpose of buying cocaine, and that both Mr Myers and his girlfriend were lying.

At the end of the evidence, prosecution counsel applied for leave to elicit before the jury the fact that neither witness had any criminal convictions. In granting leave the judge based himself partly on what he thought to be practice and partly on statements in works of authority about the rehabilitation of a witness.

Their Lordships were quite clear that the grounds of the judge's ruling were wrong. The authorities to which he referred, and in particular those expounded in *Phison v Evidence* (4th edition (1993) paragraph 12-38) were July 9, 1996; (1996) 8 Admin LR 633; *Marrinan Vihart* (1963) 1 QB 234; *Evans v London Hospital Medical College* (University of London) (1968) 1 WLR 184; *A (Minors) v Bedfordshire County Council* (1995) 2 AC 633; *Randall v Worsley* (1969) 1 AC 191; *Saif Ali v Sydney Mitchell & Co* (1980) 43 All ER 913; *Priar* (1971) AC 470; *Palmer v Durnford* (1971) 119 QJ 483 and *Lamell v Dennis Faulkner &*

however, relied strongly on *R v O'Connor* (Brendan) (unreported, October 29, 1996) in which the defendant had alleged that police officers had fabricated evidence to conceal the fact that they had used unreasonable violence when arresting him.

Allegations of perjury, conspiracy and collusion were duly put to each of the officers and in re-examination prosecuting counsel was permitted by the judge to ask them if they had any unconvicted disciplinary findings, recorded against them, the answers being in the negative. On appeal the court held that such evidence was admissible.

Their Lordships approached *O'Connor* with some caution, not least because the court in that case did not appear to have had the benefit of being shown the statements of principle to which reference had been made earlier in this judgment.

The judge in the present case did not think he was applying the *O'Connor* approach because that case was not ventilated before him

but, in any event, this case was very different.

Apert, possibly, from the allegation about cocaine, the attack on the witnesses was no more than the robust pursuit of a legitimate defence case.

If evidence of good character were held to be properly before the jury in this case it was difficult to see how any defence that challenged the veracity of the prosecution account of events would not lead to the same conclusion. That was plainly not what the court in *O'Connor* had in mind.

Accordingly, the lack of previous convictions on the part of the witnesses should not have been admitted. In a case where the defence consisted almost entirely of an attack on the veracity of the evidence in the case, it was impossible to say that the conviction was safe in the circumstances.

As the appellant had already served the equivalent of a 16-month sentence it would not be proper to employ public funds in a further trial.

Solicitors: Crown Prosecution Service, Harrow.

Duty to approve grant after serving repairs notice

Regina v Greenwich London Borough Council, Ex parte Glen International Ltd and Another

Before Mr Justice Hidden

[Judgment June 22]

Where a local authority had served a repairs notice under either section 189 or section 190 of the Housing Act 1985, it was under a duty under section 113 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 to approve a properly made application for a renovation grant.

Mr Justice Hidden so held in the Queen's Bench Division when granting an application for judicial review of the rejection by the London Borough of Greenwich of the applications made by Glen International Ltd and Mrs Vijaya Radia for renovation grants under the 1989 Act in respect of properties at 22 and 22A Fairthorn Road and 31 Gurdon Road.

Mr Richard Drabble, QC, for Glen International and Mrs Radia; Mr Andrew Arden, QC, for Greenwich.

MR JUSTICE HIDDEN said section 190 notices were served all three properties, a section 189 notice was also served in respect of 31 Gurdon Road which required repairs to be commenced and completed no later than specified dates.

In respect of 22 and 22A Fairthorn Road, the local authority decided that the property owning

company and landlord, Glen International Ltd, were not entitled to a renovation grant for that property as the works had been completed prior to the local authority's receipt of the application for a renovation grant.

Mr Drabble submitted that the local authority's decision was flawed as the requirement under section 108 not to approve grants where work had already commenced before the application has been approved did not apply to work done pursuant to statutory notices by reason of section 108(2)(b).

He further asserted that the work, the subject of the grant applications, was done pursuant to section 190 notices and relied on the section 113 duty to approve which existed, notwithstanding section 108(1).

In respect of 31 Gurdon Road, the local authority decided that the works were substantially completed prior to Mrs Radia's applications having been approved and accordingly under section 108 of the 1989 Act the application had to be refused.

Mr Drabble submitted that that decision was flawed in that the local authority considered itself bound to reject applications and had stated that "section 108 of the 1989 Act imposes restrictions on the approval of grants where works have been completed prior to approval of the application".

Mr Drabble contended that

section 108(2)(b) of the 1989 Act made it clear that the statutory regime envisaged that grants must be paid in respect of works done to comply with a mandatory notice even where works have been commenced or even completed prior to the application having been made.

Mr Drabble submitted that the key to the proposition was section 107 which created a prohibition on approval of the application where the works have been commenced but also created an exception because of section 107(2)(b). He also submitted that section 108(2) created an exception to the general rule and section 108(3) created another exception which did not apply where works had been completed.

His Lordship said that the reasons given in the section 108 notice were flawed in that the requirement under section 108 not to approve grants where work had already commenced before the application had been approved was displaced by section 108(2)(b) in relation to statutory notices. The local authority was thus under a duty to reconsider the applications in relation to 22 and 22A Fairthorn Road.

On the same basis the decision made under section 108 in relation to 31 Gurdon Road was equally flawed.

Solicitors: Birkett Long; Ms Judith Barnes, Greenwich.

Limit to scope of questions

Regina v Chairman of Stephen Lawrence Inquiry, Ex parte A'Court and Others

Before Lord Justice Simon Brown and Lord Justice Hooper

[Judgment June 18]

A person called to give evidence prior to a criminal trial of the applicants and it must not be allowed to become one.

Some of the questions could not fairly be asked going as they did essentially to a matter of guilt or innocence rather than the true issue of who or what caused the omission by the police.

His Lordship rejected the contention that such questions could be put under the guise of questions incidental to a true issue before the tribunal.

However, some of the questions drafted could properly be asked. *Clings Brannigan v Davison* (1996) 3 WLR 859 with approval, His Lordship said that it was not for the Divisional Court to rule which questions could be put and which could not. Subject to the one qualification that the applicants could not be asked questions going to their guilt or innocence, the issue of what questions could properly be put was a matter best left to the chairman's discretion.

Mr Justice Hooper agreed.

Solicitors: Henry Milner & Co and Goldkorns and Andrew Kaenan & Cox J. R. Jones, Ealing; Solicitors, Metropolitan Police; Delshon, Guedes, Mr Chris Boothman; Treasury Solicitor.

Limit to scope of questions

Yearwood for the Commission for Racial Equality, Mr Edmund Lawson, QC and Miss Anesta Weekes for the respondent.

LORD JUSTICE SIMON BROWN stated that the inquiry was in no sense a criminal trial of the applicants and it must not be allowed to become one.

Some of the questions could not fairly be asked going as they did essentially to a matter of guilt or innocence rather than the true issue of who or what caused the omission by the police.

His Lordship rejected the contention that such questions could be put under the guise of questions incidental to a true issue before the tribunal.

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Mr Justice Hooper agreed.

Solicitors: Henry Milner & Co and Goldkorns and Andrew Kaenan & Cox J. R. Jones, Ealing; Solicitors, Metropolitan Police; Delshon, Guedes, Mr Chris Boothman; Treasury Solicitor.

Company with no income cannot recover tax

Walker (Inspector of Taxes) v Centaur Clothing Group Ltd

Before Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Peter Gibson and Lord Justice Patrick Russell

[Judgment June 25]

A company transferring all its assets and liabilities to an associated company and thus having no source of income ceased to be within the charge to corporation tax and had to be denied the right of recovery of advance corporation tax (ACT) paid by it.

The Court of Appeal so held in reserved judgments dismissing an appeal by Centaur Clothing Group Ltd from Sir John Vinelton (1997) STC 721 who had upheld the refusal by the Crown of the company's claim for a carry-back of ACT under section 239 of the Income and Corporation Tax Act 1988 in respect of a dividend of some £2 million paid in April 1993 to its parent company, William Baird plc, on the ground that the dividend had not been paid during an accounting period of Centaur.

Mr David Goldberg, QC, and Mr Conrad McDonnell for the company; Mr Michael Furness for the Crown.

LORD JUSTICE PETER GIBSON said that Centaur, manufacturers of men's underwear, was a subsidiary of William Baird plc. By agreement in January 1992 it had transferred its business assets and liabilities to another subsidiary, William Baird Textile Holdings Ltd, and had been appointed that company's agent to manage and conduct the business transactions.

No remuneration had been provided for Centaur by that agreement. The purchase price of £4,290,242, was to be paid on a date to be agreed but had been left outstanding with no express agreement about payment of interest.

On April 5, 1993 Centaur declared a dividend of £2,087,113 (ACT of £695,704 attributable to it being paid to the Revenue.

It was also to be noted that an experienced specialist commissioner, Mr David Shirley, in *Apolline Ltd v Littlejohn* (1995) STC (202) 201 held that a taxpayer could not carry back surplus ACT under section 239(3) because it did not have an accounting period on the date when it had paid a dividend and become liable to ACT.

Lord Justice Nourse and Sir Patrick Russell agreed.

Solicitors: Ms Patricia M. Alsop; Solicitor of Inland Revenue.

its claim for a carry-back of ACT was refused on the ground that the dividend was not paid during an accounting period of Centaur as required by section 239(3) of the 1988 Act.

It was not in dispute that when Centaur ceased to trade in January 1992 an accounting period ended; see section 123(1) of the Act.

What was very much in dispute was whether for the purposes of section 123(1)(b) the accounting period ended "without the company then ceasing to be within the charge to corporation tax".

If the accounting period ended in January 1992 without Centaur then ceasing to be within the charge to corporation tax, another accounting period would have begun by reason of section 123(1)(b).

If, on the ending of the accounting period that date Centaur ceased to be within that charge, then the payment of the dividend would not have been made within an accounting period and section 239 would not be applicable with the result that there could be no carry-back of ACT to set off against corporation tax paid earlier.

The nub of the dispute before the judge had turned on the meaning to be given to the reference to the company being within the charge to corporation tax.

Should it be interpreted in such a way that Centaur had to have a source of income within that charge for it to be within that charge, as the Crown contended; or was that reference to be understood as meaning that the company was within that charge if corporation tax was chargeable on the income arising to it or would be so chargeable there were any such income, as Centaur argued?

The judge in resolving the dispute identified two issues: 1 Whether Centaur had a source of income between January 1992 and September 1993 and 2 If it did not, was it brought within the charge to corporation tax between those two dates by the tailpiece of section 832(1) of the 1988

Act, that provided that a source of income was within the charge to corporation tax or income tax if that tax was chargeable on the income arising from it or would be so chargeable if there were any such income?

Mr Goldberg had not advanced any argument on whether Centaur had a source of income between the relevant dates. The judge was correct in holding that it did not.

The dispute centred on whether Centaur had at all times been within the charge to corporation tax so that the end of an accounting period in January 1992 was not accompanied by Centaur ceasing to be within the charge.

The judge, on his construction of section 832(1), treated a source of income as being a necessary ingredient of the definitions of a person and income respectively being within the charge to income tax or corporation tax.

The judge was right. With consideration was to be preferred. That unwise was primarily because Mr Furness made no attempt to produce an explanation of why Parliament might have wanted the company in Centaur's position the recovery of the ACT actually paid.

But in holding that that construction better accorded with the language of section 832 and with the scheme of corporation tax, comfort was derived from the fact that one was agreeing with a judge who had great experience in the field of taxation.

It was also to be noted that an experienced specialist commissioner, Mr David Shirley, in *Apolline Ltd v Littlejohn* (1995) STC (202) 201 held that a taxpayer could not carry back surplus ACT under section 239(3) because it did not have an accounting period on the date when it had paid a dividend and become liable to ACT.

Lord Justice Nourse and Sir Patrick Russell agreed.

Solicitors: Ms Patricia M. Alsop; Solicitor of Inland Revenue.

Recent arbitration Act more restricted

Cathship SA v Allanson Ltd

Before Mr Geoffrey Brice, QC

[Judgment June 2]

Section 12 of the Arbitration Act 1996 was markedly more restricted than its predecessor, section 27 of the Arbitration Act 1950. Accordingly, it was no longer open to the arbitrator to extend the time for commencing arbitration proceedings because it included in general terms that it was just to do so.

Mr Geoffrey Brice, QC, sitting as a deputy judge of the Commercial Court of the Queen's Bench Division so held when refusing an application by Cathship SA, the owner of the Catherine Helen, for an extension of time under section 12 of the 1996 Act for commencing arbitration proceedings against the defendants, Allanson Ltd.

Section 12 of the 1996 Act provides: "(1) Where an arbitration agreement to refer future disputes to arbitration provides that a claim shall be barred, or the claimant's right extinguished, unless the claimant takes within a time fixed by the agreement some step... the court may by order extend the time for that step."

"(2) The court shall make an order only if satisfied - (a) that the

circumstances are such as were outside the reasonable contemplation of the parties when they agreed the provision in question..."

Mr Michael Nolan for the plaintiffs; Mr David Goldstone for the defendant.

HIS LORDSHIP said that the plaintiffs had applied to the court for a declaration that they had made a claim in writing against Allanson and appointed an arbitrator within the one year period required by clause 23, an amended Centrocon arbitration clause, of an amended Centrocon form of charterparty so that their claim was not time barred.

His Lordship concluded that the plaintiffs had failed to comply with the Centrocon clause in either respect and refused the declaratory relief.

Alternatively, the plaintiffs applied under section 12 for an extension of time for commencing arbitration proceedings. His Lordship said that two matters were immediately apparent.

First, the power under subsection (1) was couched in permissive terms but that subsection was ultimately going to be met by the obligatory conditions set out in subsection (2).

Second, section 12 was markedly more restricted than its predecessor, namely section 27 of the Arbitration Act 1950. On the plain and ordinary meaning of the words of section 12 it was not open to the court to extend time because it concluded in general terms that it was just to do so.

The whole climate of extending time in arbitral proceedings had changed strikingly under the 1996 Act extending what probably was very much the exception rather than the rule.

Turning to the interpretation of subsection (2), His Lordship said that the phrase "outside the reasonable contemplation of the parties" meant that the court was concerned not only with what the parties actually contemplated but what they reasonably would have contemplated.

That involved a consideration of the relevant transaction, of ordinary practices within that type of transaction and with the reasonable expectation of parties involved in such a transaction.

The fact that a party made a mistake as to the operation of clause 23 both in regard to making a claim and appointing an arbitrator was not something which was reasonably foreseeable in the contemplation of the parties.

Solicitors: Swinnerton Ashley-Clydon & Co; Simmons & Simmons.

Shareholder approval was not obtained

Demite Ltd v Protec Health Ltd and Others

Before Mr Justice Park

[Judgment June 12]

The prohibition, in section 330(1) of the Companies Act 1985, of entry by a company into a specified arrangement unless... first approved by a resolution of the company in general meeting could not be circumvented by deposing the directors in *in re Duomatic Ltd* (1969) 2 Ch 365, 374E.

Mr Justice Park so held in the Chancery Division, in giving the defendants, Protec Health Ltd and the administrators, Demite Ltd, purportedly so appointed by a debenture holder on July 15, 1996, leave to defend a claim by Demite, acting by its provisional liquidator, that they had not validly been appointed.

(b) assuming their appointment was valid, holding that an agreement of July 16, 1996, by which they had purported to sell Demite's business to Protec, required Demite's approval, which it had not given, and that Demite's approval was not validly given under section 330 of the Companies Act 1985.

Mr Gabriel Moss, QC, for the provisional liquidator of Demite; Mrs Jane Giret for Protec; Mr Christopher Boardman for the receivers.

while trading, Demite had two directors: Dr Wharton Shober and Mr Hanmer Webb Peplow.

Its shareholders were two offshore holding vehicles, Integro Fiduciaria Sarl with 38.5 per cent and Schroeder Asia Nominees Ltd with 40.5 per cent, representing each director's interest, and Mrs Lynda Platts, its operations manager, with 1 per cent.

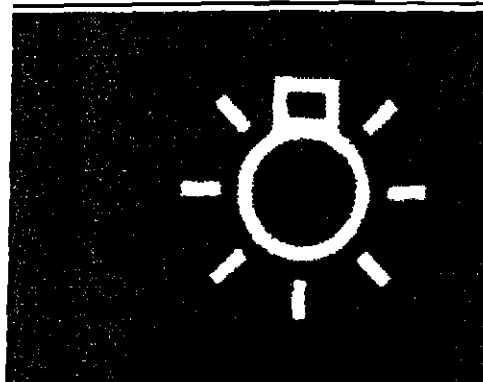
In October 1995 Demite borrowed £205,000, secured by a debenture, from a Mr Christian de Lassus. On July 12, 1996 Dr Shober and Mr Peplow signed a document headed "Shareholders' Agreement" expressed to be between them and Mrs Platts, paragraph 2 of which read: "Because of the prospective insolvency of Pioneer (a sister company of Demite) and Demite, they will be placed in liquidation and then liquidated."

Mr de Lassus's reaction, on learning of that, was on July 15 to appoint the receivers, who next day sold Demite's business and assets for £235,000 to Protec, in which Mr Peplow and Mr de Lassus, but not Dr Shober, were believed to have interests.

On the subsequent application of Dr Shober and an unsecured creditor, the court appointed provisional liquidators of Demite, on whose behalf Mr Moss now sought summary judgment under Order 14 of the Rules of

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MERCEDES advertisement listing models like C126 and C124.

BMW advertisement listing models like 318i, 318iL, and 318iLd.

Dovercourt Audi advertisement listing models like Audi A8 and A8 L.

FERRARI advertisement listing models like 360 Modena and 360 Spider.

MERCEDES advertisement listing models like C126 and C124.

BMW advertisement listing models like 318i, 318iL, and 318iLd.

Audi advertisement listing models like Audi A8 and A8 L.

FERRARI advertisement listing models like 360 Modena and 360 Spider.

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BMW advertisement listing models like 318i, 318iL, and 318iLd.

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FERRARI advertisement listing models like 360 Modena and 360 Spider.

MERCEDES advertisement listing models like C126 and C124.

Cadillac advertisement with slogan 'It's time you took a test drive in an 'S' reg. Cadillac.' and phone number 0845 601 2211.

Large vertical advertisement on the right side of the page, partially cut off, featuring 'BM 3 Ser' and 'fatter of g'.

1550 من الأوقات

BMW's 3 Series: a fatter lot of good

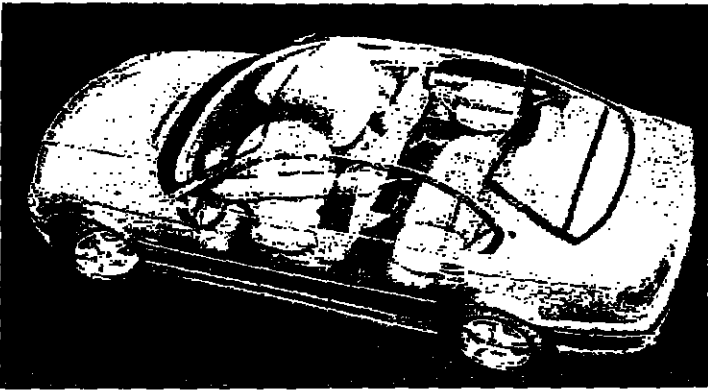
Vaughan Freeman finds a new car under the same old skin

Longer, wider, fatter, heavier, the new BMW 3 Series — the car that revolutionised motoring as a sporting saloon in the late 1970s — has swollen as the years have passed. As the car piled on the inches the 3 Series has become much more saloon than sports car, and with the latest generation the German manufacturer has responded to customers' demands for more space and comfort on the inside, at the expense of size on the outside. Around seven million 3 Series cars have been sold, and the range traces its roots back to 1966 and the 1600cc two-door car was a first — a saloon capable of 100mph which matched family practicality to performance. The latest set of 3 Series changes have created a car that BMW claims is so completely different from the range it supercedes that only the sump plug is unaltered. Yet without a measuring tape to hand, only the most eagle-eyed will be able to tell old and new apart. The thinking behind such a subtle evolution, says BMW, is simple: "If it isn't broken, why fix it?" The car, says BMW GB managing director Kevin Gaskell, "is familiar yet all new". Product director Dr Wolfgang Reitzle adds that change for change's sake has never been on the BMW

agenda: "It wouldn't have cost a penny more to have made the car quite different. If you are not satisfied with your existing identity you can make fundamental changes. At BMW we were satisfied. "The new 3 Series looks like it does because we have created a benchmark and it would be a mistake to throw that away." The four-door 3 Series is 90kg heavier, 3.8cm longer, 4.1cm wider and 2.2cm taller. The wheelbase is 2.5cm longer, giving 8cm more legroom for back-seat passengers, where cramped confines have long been a 3 Series moan. First to arrive in September will be the four-cylinder 318i and the straight-six 328i. The 318i is now a 1.9-litre car, slightly more powerful than the old version, with 118bhp rather than 115bhp, and is a second quicker 0-60mph with a top speed of 128mph rather than 125mph. A total reworking of the 193bhp 2.8-litre straight-six engine means that now there is more acceleration at lower engine revs, which brings more economical motoring, with other benefits largely centred around environmental issues rather than performance. The engine is quieter, smoother, and produces fewer harmful exhaust emissions, and while acceleration is slightly down, top speed is 5mph higher at 149mph.



Without a measuring tape, only the most eagle-eyed could tell the new 3 Series apart from its predecessor: but only the sump plug remains unchanged from the old car



Front and side airbags ensure Teutonic safety. Interior is larger but may still cram rear passengers



3 SERIES 328i SE

Engine: 2.8-litre, 24-valve, 193bhp straight six, driving a five-speed manual gearbox. Performance: 0-62mph, 7 secs; top speed 149mph. Economy: 22.6mpg urban, 40mpg motorway, 31mpg combined. Equipment: Air-con, CD player, on-board navigation, leather upholstery, dual front airbags. Price: £32,700.

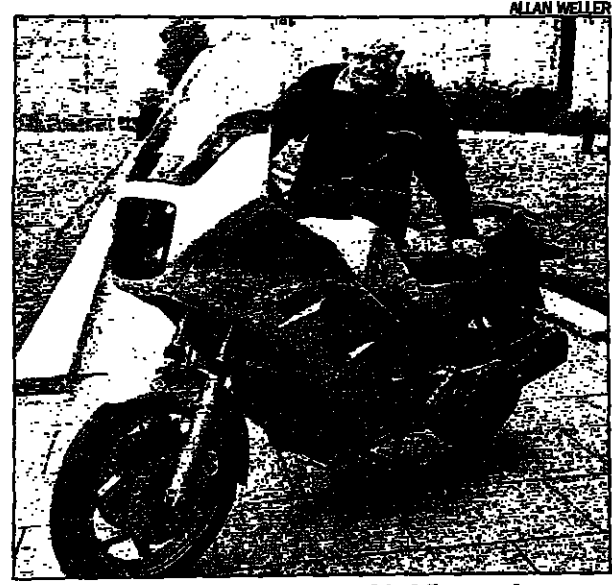
loot with outstanding performance, rather than a sporting car with more comfort than normal. It is the price, though, that might give pause for thought. The 318i SE costs from £21,000 and the "basic" 328i SE starts at £28,000. BMW says used values make the 3 Series a sound buy in the long run, and that maintenance costs will be 30 per cent cheaper because longer service intervals mean only four trips to the garage during 60,000 miles compared with seven visits for the car it replaces. The new 328i will arrive in December and the 316i and 320i diesel next summer, while the existing Coupé, Compact, Touring and Convertible will be sold alongside the new range. Already BMW has 5,000 orders for the new 3 Series, and plans to sell 20,000 in Britain next year. It faces tough competition from the Alfa Romeo 156 V6, Audi A4 2.8, and the C280 from Mercedes.

The 328i suffers little from carrying that extra weight. The straight-six engine is smooth and eerily quiet at idle, yet it pours out the power, especially if the driver works the engine hard. Driving around mountainous roads with tight hairpins, the car is

totally surefooted, the brakes are phenomenal and the gearbox a delight. The driving position is excellent, but taller rear-seat passengers will still need to stoop slightly and sit splay-legged if those in the front are over 6ft. On the motorway, the 328i is an

ideal choice, undemanding and relaxing, and with so much performance on tap from both engine and brakes. The car provides the alert driver with the tools to cope with almost any eventuality. As well as Cornering Brake Control, which automatically adjusts

braking effort on all four wheels to help prevent the car going into a spin, BMW offers Dynamic Stability Control, which cuts the power to the rear wheels when necessary for excellent roadholding no matter what the conditions. The overall feel is of a plush sa-



Lord Strathcarron on his BMW: big bike equals respect

That grey streak was a motorcyclist

Motorcycling is the last chance to experience the freedom of the road with minimal traffic or parking problems. The way motoring was 50 years ago. I passed my motorcycle test in 1940 when I was 16, not on a motorcycle but on a 1934 Morgan three-wheeler. All was well until the lady examiner asked me to do a three-point turn, so I put it in reverse, and was informed that it was illegal to drive a reversible tricycle until I was 17. I then asked a garage to block out reverse gear and was able to pass the test the following week. I ride a motorcycle most days in London and it is necessary to be aware of drivers of certain vehicles.

Germany's biggest growth motorcycle market is now the over-80s: Lord Strathcarron explains biking's attraction for older riders

The ones to watch out for are Ford XR3i drivers, girls driving Minis with a cigarette dangling near the window, dreaming either of their boyfriends or else window-shopping. Worst of all are the drivers of black Mercedes on diplomatic plates belonging to Third World countries. Most friendly are taxi drivers who have ridden mopeds while learning the "knowledge", and van drivers who probably have a bike of their own. There is a great deal of snobbery in motorcycling, not over riders,

but machines. Ride a big bike and other riders respect you; ride a moped and you are disregarded. Furthermore, you are resented by passengers waiting at a bus stop for the bus, which never comes. Many know that buying a moped would solve their problems. Another good aspect of motorcycling is the camaraderie. Take, for example, a typical cross-Channel ferry: there may be several hundred cars waiting to board, and perhaps six motorcyclists who will all be talking

to each other while the car drivers will be worrying about getting a good place on the boat. On one occasion, I was motorcycling to Silverstone with my wife riding pillion when a rear puncture caused us to come to a wobbling halt. I was having difficulty removing the rear wheel when a lorry stopped and the driver and his mate helped us. Later, I was trying to separate the tyre from the rim and a Hell's Angel stopped to help. He rode to a motorcycle shop eight

miles away to buy me a new inner-tube. He then came back, put it all together and blew up the tyre with a handpump. Had we been in a car rather than on a bike, I am sure no one would have stopped to help. I am sometimes asked why I continue to ride at 74, when I could move around London on a free pass. I would not think of it until the buses run punctually to a timetable. But on reflection, I think I shall always continue to ride PTWs (powered two-wheelers), which is the official jargon for what you and I call a motorcycle. ♦ Lord Strathcarron is chairman of the All Party Parliamentary Motorcycle Group.

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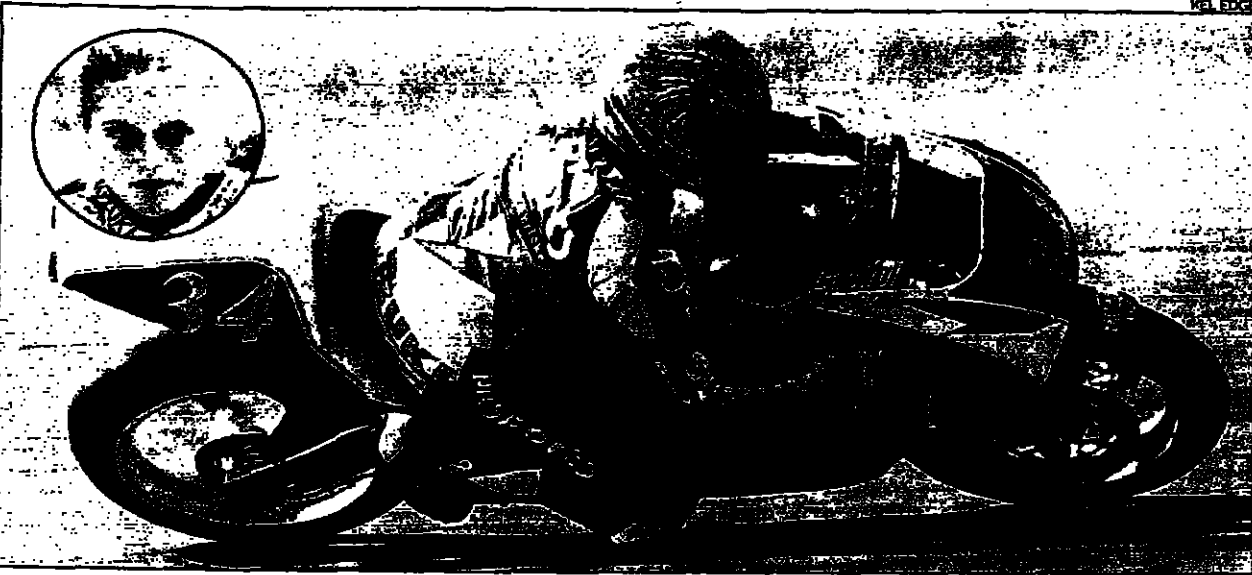
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Cadillac

Single girl beats male race

Neil Spalding
on the woman
set to take the
SuperMono
championship



Katja Poensgen crashed 35 times on her way to her junior title and broke her thumb at Donington earlier this year

SuperMono racing — where the bikes are equipped with single-cylinder four-stroke engines — has gained a reputation for gripping entertainment. But something unusual in two-wheeled racing is catching the fans' attention as well.

Each of the past four rounds has been won by 21-year-old Katja Poensgen on her 750cc BMR Suzuki. In this male-dominated world it is rare to see a woman even take to the track — so such a string of successes is high uncharted of.

She leads the series by 33 points. And if things go well at Brands Hatch this weekend she could wrap up the championship with two rounds to go.

Katja, the daughter of Germany's Suzuki importer, has been going to race circuits since she was a young girl. But getting this good has not been easy, and her current success follows a long struggle against injury and bad luck.

The SuperMono Cup exists to give young riders and independent engineers the opportunity to experience international competition at major events all around Europe.

But Katja found it hard to

win the parental help she needed to race: "I said I wanted to race and Dad said no, racing is for men only," she says.

"I went to the gym, got really fit, and finally in 1992 Dad said OK and agreed to give me a bike for the junior cup. I raced in the series for three years and in 1995 won the championship, the first girl to do so, but I crashed 35 times during that year."

Over the next two years things got a lot more serious, but more dangerous too. Winter 1996 saw Katja at ex-500 World Champion Kenny Roberts' Spanish training ranch. "I had my first go on a bigger bike, the BMR, at the Super-

bike meeting at Hockenheim, but it was a bad weekend. I crashed and did not qualify.

"I did a few races in the European 125 championship, and a few more on the BMR. At Monza I got pole position but the engine went after two laps. At Assen I got knocked off before we finished the first lap.

Katja adds: "At Albacete, I was leading when the throttle cable broke on the last lap — but it was my best race, because I knew I could win."

1997, however, was a disaster: "We went to practise in the winter, and I crashed really badly. I got bad concussion. I

was three days in hospital before I recognised my Dad. I stayed there for a month and had another two and a half months getting fit.

"I went to Hungary on my other bike, a Suzuki 600, but crashed again and broke bones in my hand and foot. It took another two and a half months to fix them. The last race was at Albacete. I got second-fastest in practice and ended up in third, a good way to finish the year.

"This year we went back to Kenny Roberts' ranch again. Then to Donington for the first SuperMono Cup race.

"I crashed in the Melbourne loop when some guy went

down in front of me: I had to go over him. I pushed the bike back to the pits, where they got it going again and I then crashed at Goddards and landed on my thumb, which broke. So that was the end of the weekend for me."

Winning the past four races has been much more fun though: "Yes, Monza was great. I couldn't get pole but I knew that I could go faster in the race." Then the Nurburgring: "Wet and horrible but I knew the circuit well and managed to win."

"What about the future? 'I would like to ride in the World Superbike series. If I go well in the SuperSport there must be a chance. I would love to get into the top five in a World Superbike race."

Brands Hatch is, she hopes, just a stepping stone.

● The next SuperMono Cup race is at the World Superbike meeting at Brands Hatch on Sunday August 2. Racing starts at midday. Practice is on Friday and Saturday.

The meeting also features two World Superbike races, a World SuperSport round and support races. It is the biggest motorcycle event of the year in Britain, call 0870 6060 611 for ticket information.

Hugh Hunston drives a very special Vauxhall

Flunking out in the tough guys' saloon

Vauxhall Vectra racer John Cleland describes the showers sweeping the Croft racing track near Darlington, as "guy dreich". Scottish Borders talk for pretty dismal.

Trussed up in the Vectra's six-point safety harness and wearing an undersized helmet, I realise that while driving with Cleland had seemed like a good idea at the time, it does not any longer.

Cleland, the double British touring car champion, currently fifth in the British Touring Car Championship, warms up the car and its tyres, particularly the rear pair, around which, he explains, the car tends to pivot.

I turn the key, press the red ignition button, and the Vectra clatters into life. Selecting five of the six gears involves pushing the lever horizontally forwards. First is a tug backwards.

I blip the throttle to build engine revs and pulse, pull the lever and slip the clutch. Clunk, silence, stalled. Second try, with some shoving from the pit crew, and we are off, burbling down the road towards Hawthorn Bend.

I am accompanied by Si-

VECTRA RACER

- ◆ Standard body shell.
- ◆ Special 300bhp engine and sequential six-speed gearbox.
- ◆ Extra cooling fans and oil pumps.
- ◆ Roll cage.
- ◆ Heat-sensing fire extinguisher system.
- ◆ ABS and traction control removed to comply with BTCC regulations.

a gentle tug at the steering wheel, to guide us towards the right line for the corner.

My mission, which I had rashly accepted, was to bring Vectra and Rheinberg back in one piece. I do not ask what times I had registered. An egg timer is not to hand.

The first few laps are a blur, ideas of clipping apexes are swept away by the need to adjust to the car's brutal acceleration.

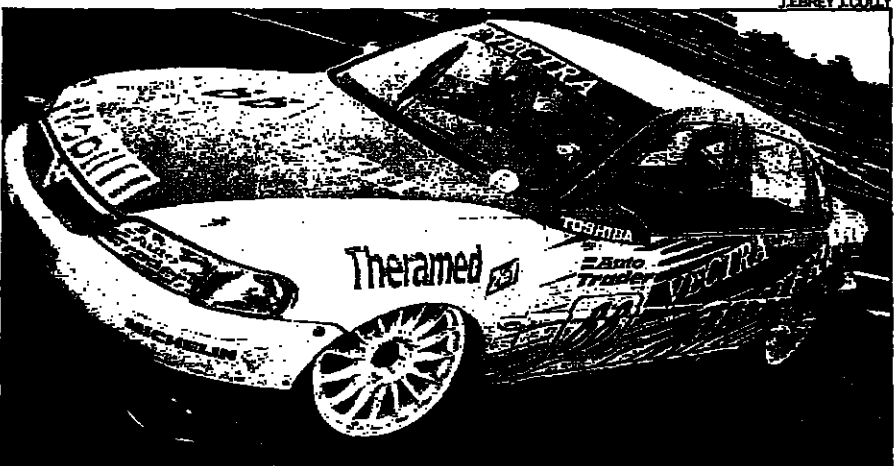
By lap five there is some sense of progression. Blatting through the gears produces a glorious mechanical howl, and Rheinberg's hand-waving becomes less frantic.

I roll into the pits, and Cleland completes a similar distance with me as captive observer. His manipulation of the gears and throttle resembles a rock hero playing guitar riffs, engine revs singing as he steers by the throttle.

He slides and drifts on damp patches, the speed carrying us in and out of corners at a bewildering pace.

The gull between race-track and roadgoing Vectra is the same as that between Tornado fighter and micro-light — and, sadly, between professional and amateur.

JEREMY LLOYD



Heavily modified Vectra saloon racer retains only the standard car's steel body shell

AUTOFAX by David Long and Les Evans

38,000 MILES IN THREE AND A HALF YEARS: AMERICAN STAN MOTT IS THE ONLY PERSON EVER TO HAVE CIRCUMNAVIGATED THE GLOBE BY GO-KART...

CHRYSLER NEVER ACTUALLY OCCUPIED ITS FAMOUS NEW YORK SKYSCRAPER

IN JANUARY 1997 TOKYO POLICE CAUGHT A NISSAN SKYLARK GT-R DOING 195 MPH.

PRELIMES ONCE ALLOWED ITS NAME TO BE USED BY A TYPEWRITER MANUFACTURER

WHAT MAKES A CAR COMPLETE?

First of all, of course, it needs to be fully built but the perfect finishing touch for any vehicle has to be a DVLA personalised number.

Indeed, Tony Crook, owner of luxury car manufacturer Bristol Cars, was one of the first customers to buy a new 'S' prefix Select Registration from the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency — even though the exclusive car it is destined for was far from complete.

S100 MPH, which Tony bought for the "bargain price" of £399, will be the crowning glory for his latest car, a 1998 Bristol Blenheim 2, when it takes to the roads this August after several months of specialist construction.

"Like all our cars, the £118,000 Blenheim 2 is handbuilt to the highest of standards" says Tony "and a personalised number plate adds an extra touch of distinction".

One of the few remaining car manufacturers in British ownership, Bristol Cars has been producing handbuilt luxury cars since 1946 when it was set up as a division of the Bristol Aeroplane Company.

The brand new Blenheim which takes its name from these aircraft origins will be used as a demonstration car in Bristol's London showrooms and Tony feels sure that the registration number will attract a lot of interest from customers keen to know the story behind it.

A former Grand Prix racing driver, Tony chose the mark to reflect a record he set in 1950 at Montlhéry in France when he became the first person to drive a saloon car at over 100mph for an hour. At the time he



was offered the number plate MPH 100 for the successful saloon, a Bristol 401, and his enthusiasm for personalised registrations was born.

"S100 MPH is particularly significant to me because of this event" explains Tony "and I will be delighted to see the latest model showing off the achievement of its predecessor".



Since setting the record Tony has built up quite a collection, adding 100 MPH, MPH 100D and now S100 MPH to the original mark.

Tony took part in over 400 motor races in the late 1940's and 1950's racing Bristol engine cars before jointly becoming the company in 1960 and becoming sole owner in 1973.



Pictures: Tony Crook owner of Bristol Cars has his 'S' prefix Select Registration ready and waiting to add to his ever increasing collection of '100 MPH' registration numbers

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What's in a Name?

After 15 years of waiting, Cynthia Hughes or "Sidge" as she's affectionately known to her friends, has finally got the number plate she's always fancied thanks to the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency's Select Registrations scheme.

Cynthia from Dresden, Stoke-on-Trent is now the proud owner of S1 DGE after her two sons, Mark and Julian, clubbed together to buy her the £999 mark.

"I first got the idea when prefix letters were introduced in 1983 and

have been waiting for the 'S' series to come around ever since!" said a delighted Cynthia "I love the thought of putting my name on my car for all my friends to recognise - it's a mark of individuality".

S1 DGE won't be spotted around town just yet though as Cynthia currently has an 'N' reg car and isn't planning on changing it for some time. However, her registration plates will take "pride of place" on the mantelpiece for everyone to see.

Did You Know...

Choice: There are over 5 million possible combinations available through the DVLA Select Registrations scheme

Auction: The next DVLA Classic Collection auction will be held in Swansea, South Wales on 10th and 11th September 1998. For details write to DVLA Sale of Marks, Longview Road, Swansea, SA6 7JL

Money: All revenue from the DVLA's sale of personalised registration numbers goes to the Treasury. In excess of £300 million has been generated since the launch of the scheme in 1989

Web: Information on Select Registrations and Classic Collection is available on the DVLA Sale of Marks website at: www.dvla-som.co.uk

Prefixes: The 'S' prefix is the last to be issued in August. The remaining prefixes will be issued every six months starting with 'T' in March 1999

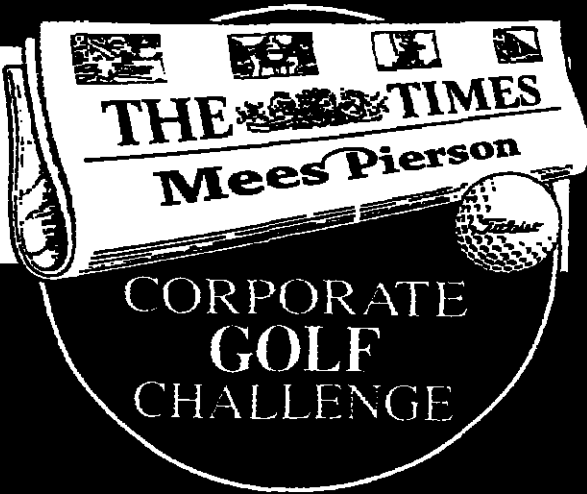
Main table containing unit trust prices for various funds, including columns for fund names, prices, and changes. The table is organized into multiple columns and rows, listing numerous investment funds.

Advertisement for LEHMANN COMMUNICATIONS EC3, featuring the text 'CITY OF LONDON', 'LEHMANN COMMUNICATIONS EC3', and 'For the right Communications Strategy Call 0171 266 3020'.

Advertisement for strokesal golf balls, featuring the text 'strokesal GOLF BALLS' and 'Quality'.



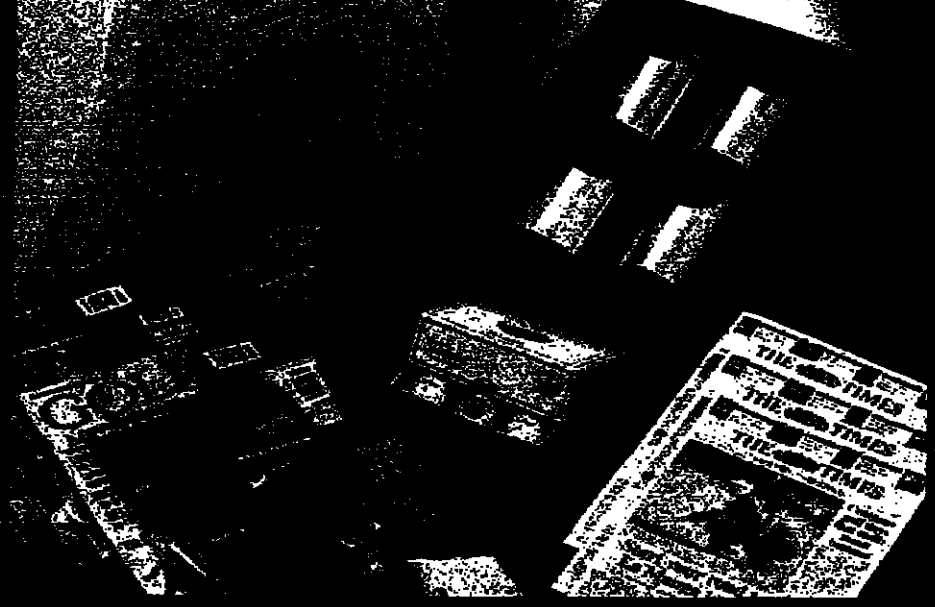
For your company golf day



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A one off entry fee of £175 plus VAT. At least one in three chance that the qualifiers from your company golf day could go forward to represent your company in one of the fourteen Regional Finals held in October. The winners of the

3 Qualify for the Regional Finals



Regional Finals will qualify to play in the National Final in La Manga in November, to be shown on Sky Sports.

4 Televised National Final



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STILL WAITING 56

Carpetbaggers at Nationwide question vote

WEEKEND MONEY

CASH MOVE 54

Investment club members take a shares break



Day of the low-cost extras

Timon Day and Marianne Curphey join the film fans who don't know a key-grip from a dolly but can't wait to get involved



You want to be an extra like those in Day of the Locust and appear in movies such as Sliding Doors? For £1,000, your wish can come true

Changes to the rules on tax relief for long-term investments plus government plans announced this week to boost the British film industry have made the rewards for becoming a film angel look more attractive.

used up all other tax-efficient investments, and who are prepared to lock up their money for five years or more, this is a risk they are prepared to take.

Despite the success of British-made films like The Full Monty, Trainspotting and Mrs Brown, however, only one or two films out of every ten made ever produce decent returns for investors.

Take One raised £30,000 to make television documentaries for the BBC and ITV. Only 15 investors came forward but Michael Chicken, a director of Neill Clerk Capital, is undeterred.

first became involved in film finance at Guinness Mahon, the merchant bank, where he organised backing for 40 feature films in the 1980s averaging a more than 20 per cent annual return for investors.

Darwell-Taylor hope that film lovers will invest up to £520,000 to make a low-budget British thriller called Out of Depth. The minimum investment is £1,000 and investors are wooed with incentives such as attending a day's shooting, a special screening of the film and the chance to appear as an extra.

£880,000, then investors will make a 10 per cent return. A good performance means gross receipts of £1.7 million, in which case investors will double their money over five years.

Sliding Doors, the romantic film starring Gwyneth Paltrow, which was made by Paramount Pictures and Miramax in the UK, earned an impressive £5.5 million in its first month in British cinemas and has now grossed £10.5 million and twice as much as in the US.

Gordon Brown's decision to change the rules on reinvestment relief for wealthy investors means that investing in films is one of the few remaining ways of rolling up capital gains tax.

Investors have to pay capital gains tax on any gains realised on the value of their investments during a tax year over and above their annual allowance. In the 1998-99 tax year, this allowance is £5,800 per person. Changes in the Budget of March 17 meant that from April this year some of the most attractive places to reinvest your money to avoid CGT had disappeared.

Reinvestment relief is a tax break which allows investors to roll over any CGT liability until their tax bill might be lower. There are specific areas in which this money must be invested.

Until this tax year, this included certain second-hand shares listed on the Alternative Investment Market (AIM) which are issued by small and growing businesses. This has now changed and investing in the shares of film companies via an enterprise investment scheme (EIS) is one of the few avenues that are still open.

The rules dictate that you have to keep your investment for at least five years, after which time the film financing company winds up and assets are distributed to shareholders. Dividends paid on the shares are taxed at your highest tax rate.

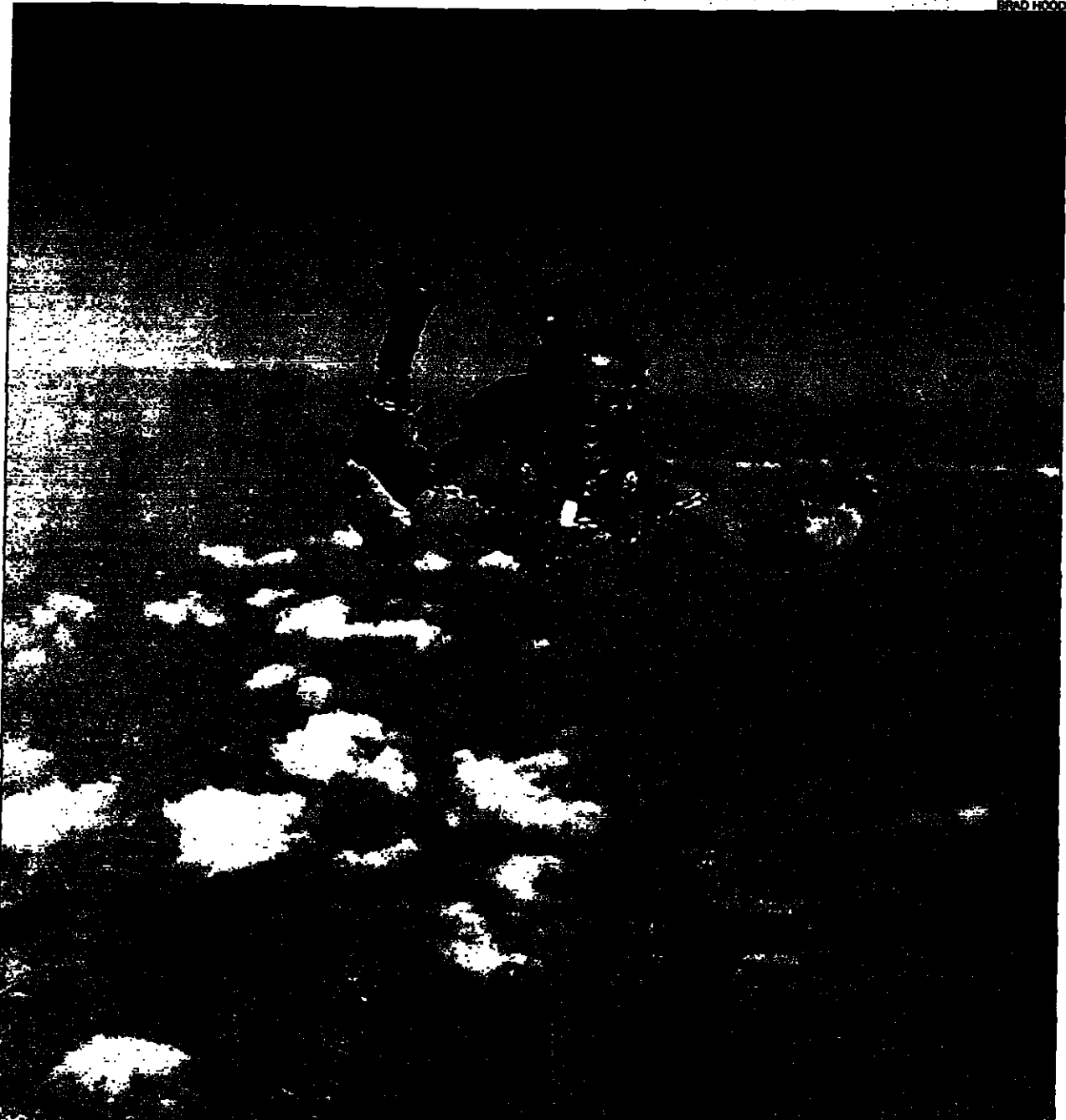
Threadneedle in Europe. The facts point to success. Strong returns - European Select Growth Fund. A bar chart showing performance over 1, 3, and 5 years. Text describing the fund's success and contact information: 0800 0683000.

Mercury Keystone - award-winning performance. 1997 Fund Management Group of the year and 1997 UK Equity Growth Trust of the year. CALL NOW 0800 882 884. Includes a form for requesting a brochure.

Partial view of an advertisement on the right edge of the page, including the text 'No sk' and 'Pens'.

Sara McConnell reports on increasing pressure on the societies

No freedom from sky-high rates



Mortgage lock-ins after a fixed-rate period are not usually quite as onerous as this situation but they can be expensive

Plans to scrap special mortgage deals which carry heavy redemption penalties were shelved this week in favour of giving borrowers more information about the schemes at the point of sale.

Lenders have been falling over themselves to offer generous cashbacks, discounts and cheap rates in a bid to tempt borrowers away from their rivals and keep the housing market moving. But to pay for the cost of offering rock-bottom deals, they have been imposing stringent penalties for redeeming loans early or even for paying off part of a mortgage early.

This week the Council of Mortgage Lenders, which represents the majority of lenders, abandoned plans to force its members to stop offering generous cashbacks and levying big penalties to pay for them. The Building Societies Association (BSA) caused a stir last month when it first raised such a possibility with its own building society members, following criticism of the penalties from consumer groups.

Instead the CML pledged to find ways of tightening up its industry code of practice to make sure lenders explained the terms of any special deal including penalties clearly to borrowers. Michael Coogan, the CML director general, said: "All the evidence suggests that

many borrowers are attracted to mortgage packages with initial fixed or discounted rates combined with a requirement either to stay with the same lender for a subsequent period or pay an early redemption charge. There is nothing inherently unfair about such a package. However, we fully recognise and support the need to ensure that consumers are aware of the contract they are entering into."

It is not yet clear how lenders will be monitored under the code to check they are sticking to requirements to make the information and selling process transparent.

Many lenders have been locking borrowers into variable rates for several years after a special deal ends in order to recoup their initial outlay. Borrowers at the Skipton, for example, are just coming to the end of a two-year fixed rate of 3.75 per cent. But they will be locked in for a further three years at the society's variable rate, which will rise from 8.45 per cent to 8.8 per cent on August 1.

Alan Scott, the society's sales and marketing director said: "We need three years at the variable rate to recoup our money."

But now some lenders are starting to rethink this strategy as borrowers get wise to the dangers of being trapped in an uncompetitive variable rate.

Ray Boulger of John Charcol, the mortgage adviser, said: "More customers are aware of the importance of redemption penalties and people need to know what they are buying."

Abbey National this week became the latest lender to announce an extended range of fixed rate, capped and discounted loans carrying no penalties after the end of the fixed rate term.

Mike Murphy, Abbey National's head of mortgage, says the bank is responding to customer demand, giving people the choice of paying a higher rate and having no tie-in penalty or a lower rate with tie-ins.

"We've been offering this option on several of our mortgage products for a while and customers have responded very favourably," Abbey National, along with its arch rival Halifax, is one of a few lenders offering a directly comparable choice of options, according to Patrick Bunton of London & Country, the mortgage adviser.

Northern Rock, which traditionally ties borrowers in for long periods after the end of fixed-rate deals, also recently announced a range of new loans with no tie-ins after the end of the fixed-rate term. Previous ranges have locked borrowers in for up to six years on a two-year fixed rate.

At the same time, the Skipton and the Woolwich are now allowing borrowers to pay up to 10 per cent off their mortgages without penalty as part of certain fixed-rate deals. The Portman this week announced a two-year capped-rate loan of 6.9 per cent with no redemption penalties at any time.

All the lenders deny suggestions that their decision was directly influenced by the possibility that special deals could be banned or limited under the mortgage code.

Opponents of special deals paid for by redemption penalties, including a number of lenders, argue that such tactics distort the market as remortgage borrowers chase the best deals.

Supporters of special deals say they provide access to loans for first-time buyers who would otherwise not be able to afford them and that such help is all the more important when interest rates are rising.

Lenders drew up the mortgage code last year in a last attempt to show the mortgage industry could regulate itself and avoid the threat of statutory regulation.

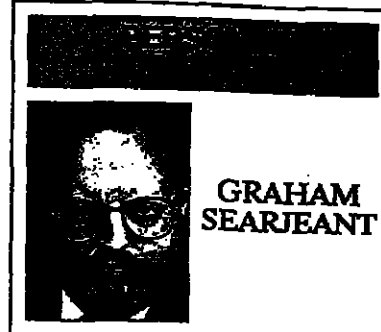
However, Mr Bunton said that so far there was little sign that lenders would act in concert as long as some believed they could make a profit from levying penalties on borrowers who left the lender early.

Shareholders left in the dark

Quoted companies will in future have to announce their annual results within 60 days of their year end or face cautions and rude questions. The Accounting Standards Board has issued a statement of best practice, which also obliges companies to include a summary balance sheet, cash flow statement and statements of non-trading gains and losses as well as an explanation from the directors in the preliminary profit announcement. This is "voluntary" because the board can only set compulsory standards for accounts. The prelim should also be agreed by the auditors, even if they have not yet signed the full accounts.

The new timetable is itself quite a challenge. The Institutional Fund Managers Association has calculated that only 43 of the top 100 companies managed it in 1997. ICI reported only 37 days after closing its books while CEC took 99. Zeneca took 70 days, getting on for double the time taken by its former parent. But that came down to 64 this year and you can guarantee Zeneca will comply in 1999. Sir Sydney Lipworth, the ICI's chairman, also chairs the Financial Reporting Council.

There are drawbacks to the new rule. It will give directors a lever to persuade



GRAHAM SEARJEANT

auditors to agree the accounts fast. No immediately insisted that auditors should not be rushed into approving statements before they were sure of the numbers and should blow the whistle if prelims were put out without their say-so. And most big companies' financial years end on December 31 so there will be an even worse newsjam in the days running up to March 1, or February 29 in leap years. Companies should spread the load for investors. More financial years to the end of April, August and September would be helpful.

Worst of all, this reform will not help

most shareholders. Few companies send prelims to private investors. Apart from press coverage, investors are left in the dark. They must wait for the annual report while fund managers have meetings with directors to chew over these new, improved prelims.

Sir David Tweedie, chairman of the ASB, wants more companies to put out their prelims on the Internet. That is a great idea if you know they are coming and are hooked up. He should quickly bring in a similarly tough target for annual reports.

The danger is that more small investors will be palmed off with summary accounts that are mainly marketing pabulum. So much formal disclosure and platitudes is now required that the board is thinking of converting the prelim, once signed off, into the annual report, relegating the blumpf at the back to a document filed at Companies House. This could put small investors into an even worse information vacuum, especially if summary accounts are different from the prelims that are in City hands weeks earlier. Much formal accounting language is confusing to the untrained reader.

The answer is for Sir David to reform that language, not to allow small investors to be patronised.

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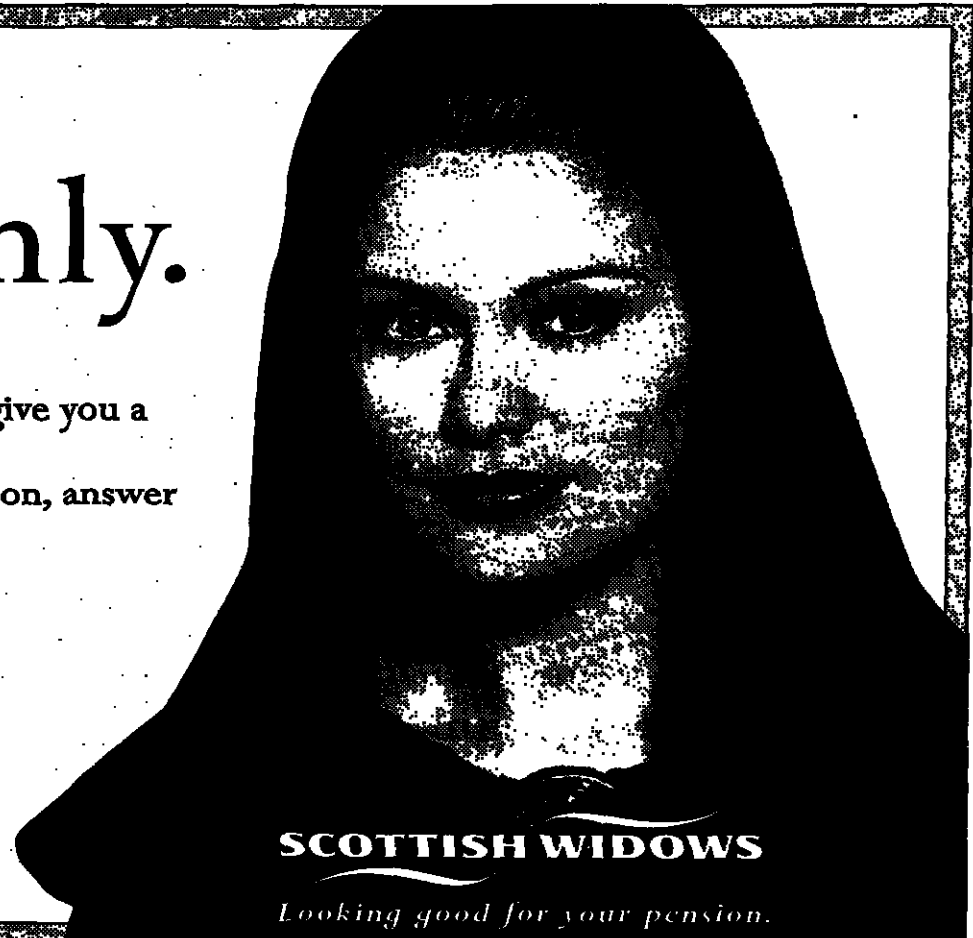
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CML caves in over lock-ins

The Council of Mortgage Lenders has bowed to pressure from its members and decided not to scrap the kind of special mortgage deals which have punitive redemption penalties attached.

Though the lenders' motivation is entirely one of self interest, it is good news for those canny borrowers who do not need to be nannied when deciding which mortgage to choose.

There are some terrific fixed-rate and cash-back deals on the market at the moment, and it would be wrong to prevent borrowers from taking advantage of them just because they were deemed to be too unsophisticated to understand them.



COMMENT
MARIANNE CURPHEY
Personal Finance Deputy Editor

Nevertheless, first-time buyers and less streetwise homebuyers need guidance when choosing one of the plethora of special offers on the high street.

The CML's half-baked solution is to tighten up the Mortgage Code—an entirely voluntary set of guidelines.

Past experience with pensions mis-selling shows that unless the information given to people at the point

of sale is regulated, there will always be lenders who bend the rules. A proper solution, but one which is unpalatable to the CML, is to bring the selling of mortgages under the Financial Services Act.

A home loan is the biggest financial commitment most people ever make and the sale of mortgage debt should be regulated as strictly as the sale of a £6,000 investment.

Isa no good

The Treasury invented the insurance element of the individual savings account as a sop to life insurers. It must now be feeling sore at the life industry's astonishing ingratitude.

Standard Life is one of a number of insurers boycotting Isas because they cannot make enough money out of them.

Those charged with creating the stakeholder pension should take note that if you invent a product to save money for the Government, fail to conduct market research to gauge public reaction, and then cobble together something to appease the financial services industry, you have a savings plan nobody wants.



The change of timing has angered many private investors who liked to scan the papers and deal at breakfast time

Breakfast act infamy

The London Stock Exchange shortened its opening hours this week, moving the start of trading to 9am from 8.30am. But the change has angered many private investors who are accustomed to buying or selling before the start of their normal working day.

Barclays Stockbrokers says it receives 15 per cent of its orders to buy or sell before 9am, and that the new opening hours favour big institutional traders rather than small investors. Justin Urquhart-Stewart said: "It's an incredibly retrograde step and for the private investor it's ridiculous. The Exchange should increase its opening hours, not shorten them."

The Stock Exchange pushed back the start of trading to 9am in an attempt to halt the rogue prices that have bedevilled its new electronic trading system, Sets, at the start and end of each trading day. But early indications are that reducing opening hours has done little to compress the wide spreads common first thing in the morning.

Mr Urquhart-Stewart said: "Take shares in Alliance & Leicester, for example. On day two of the new hours they opened with a very wide spread for the first hour and a half, then narrowed, then widened again at the end of the day."

Why should this matter to small investors? The spread is the difference between the buy-

Patrick Collinson explains why the boys in the City brokerages are having an extra half-hour in bed

Peter Forster, co-director of the Share Centre in Tring, said: "Before Sets was launched, the spread was about 1 per cent and the aim of Sets was to get that spread below 1 per cent once it was introduced. Rogue traders have produced some rather odd prices and huge spreads. Private investors can avoid this by trading at less volatile times. On shares which are not part of the main FTSE 100 index the spreads tend to be wider."

do not, however, prevent a small investor from dealing before 9am, but they do make the price more uncertain. Most private client stockbrokers will take buy or sell instructions before 9am, and then go to a market maker to find a price and a bid/offer spread. The broker will then inform the private client of the price, but is likely to warn them that the market is not official and that the price is not therefore the best execution price. The broker should also refer the client to the previous night's closing price as a guide.

But although this is one way to bypass the later opening hours, Barclays Stockbrokers

feels it is not ideal. Mr Urquhart-Stewart said: "Trading before the market is open is called trading on 'best endeavours' but it can be foolish—it's like buying yesterday's bread."

Barclays Stockbrokers says the only way to be sure of achieving the best buying or selling price for a share is to persevere through the day and call your broker several times. His advice is as follows:

Ring your broker, ask for the share price and ask if the spread is normal. If it is something like 15-20p or 2-3 per cent of the value of the share, you should hold off acting.

Keep ringing and waiting until the spread narrows, or consult CeeFax or online services such as the Internet to check prices. If that is too time-consuming, set a limit price with the broker, below which you will not sell your shares or above which you will not buy.

Bizarrely, the new later opening hours for the London Stock Exchange come only weeks after the announcement of a tie-up between London and Frankfurt, opening up the potential for a future pan-European exchange. The London Stock Exchange admitted last week that the alliance could result in London having to open at the same hours as Frankfurt—in other words at 7.30am rather than 9am. Many dealers now expect the Exchange to reverse its later opening hours once the alliance comes into action.

Big four still play their cards right

Some 17 million British adults now have a credit card. The number has risen 7 per cent in five years and equates to 39 per cent of the adult population, according to a new report by NOP Research.

The expansion of the credit market is good news for consumers says NOP. "It is currently the credit card holders who have the most to gain as providers continue to compete heavily for additional business," says Tony Pugh of NOP.

The growth of the market has been in response to a number of factors. There has been a flood of new cards as su-

permarkets and several US card companies, such as MBNA, have arrived.

The best rates currently available, according to information from Moneyfacts, reflect the impact made by some of the newer card companies. Capital One Bank, for example, is offering a Visa card with an APR of 6.9 per cent. RBS Advanta charges 7.9 per cent APR for its Visa card, while the next

best is Nationwide Building Society with 8.5 per cent. All three are introductory rates, and none have an annual fee.

There is also an ever increasing number of affinity cards on offer from a wide range of special interest groups and charities. Lower interest rates, and the opening up of the market to younger customers, has further boosted the appeal. Also significant is the reduc-

tion in the number of cards charging an annual fee. Their number has dropped from 74 per cent in 1993 to 59 per cent in 1998, says NOP.

Despite the wider choice of cards, consumers are sticking with those offered by the high street banks. Seven out of ten credit card holders says the NOP report have at least one card with one of the Big Four.

However, the newer cards are attracting different business, with only 5 per cent of new providers' customers aged under 25, compared with nearly one third at the big four clearing banks.

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Patrick Collinson explains why a Sunday hobby can seriously hurt your wealth

When the beautiful game goes well into injury time

Alan Shearer's torn ligaments cost him six months out of the game, but it made only a small dent in his multi-million pound income. Self-employed heating engineer Jeff Gillam broke his leg playing football for his local team last year — and it cost him his livelihood.

Mr Gillam (see box) was one of the six and a half million people who needed medical treatment for a sports injury last year, according to figures from the Sports Council. One and a half million of them had to take time off from their employment, and although many companies have schemes to assist their employees, a large number do not and an injured person may have to fall back on statutory sick pay of just £57.70 per week.

The self-employed however, do not even qualify for sick pay and therefore an injury can be financially catastrophic if they have their own business.

The start of the football season is now only weeks away, so both budding Michael Owens and ageing Paul Gascoigne should give a thought to the cost of an injury and the steps needed to take to head off a financial over-goal. Some players believe they are automatically covered by Football Association insurance schemes, but in reality very few are. The Football Association has 40,000 member clubs with 250,000 players, but is divided over whether to force teams to buy insurance to protect players.

Middlesex County Football Association, for example, is one of the few local associations that have put in place a mandatory scheme. More common is the stance taken by Sussex Country Football Association, which has a voluntary scheme for its 1,200 member clubs.

Sussex FA secretary David Worsfold said: "We have negotiated a good scheme for our clubs, but we leave it as a matter of choice. The trouble with mandatory schemes is that to make the payouts worthwhile, the premiums can be as high as £200 per team per season, which if Shearer: costly torn ligament you have three or four teams in a club can really add up."

Teams outside the Football Association can go to a number of insurance brokers that have set up special schemes for football clubs. One of the biggest, Broadstone Insurance Services, will give cover for injury, hospital stay benefit, disbursement and emergency dental fees from as little as £65 per team and only £21 for youth teams. Broadstone also offers public liability cover against injury to spectators at the match from £11 per team, and it even pays out for injuries sustained by players when they swap their boots for dancing shoes at the annual club disco.

But the payouts on such premiums are small: £65 guarantees only a £2,000 payout for total disablement and £10 per week for temporary disablement. If every team player is to be guaranteed £100 per week for temporary disablement, the premium soars to £650 per team.

If your team is unwilling to buy insurance for the entire squad, which is understandable if most players are covered via their employers, then the alternative is to take out an individual policy. These should be particularly attractive to the growing number of self-employed people who don't have a company to pick up the bill for a broken leg or arm.

set up by unions and employers to cover the 600,000 self-employed people in the building industry, introduced an accident policy for the workplace last year — but found that three-quarters of its claims came from sports-related injuries. For £19.95 per month its RapidCash policy will pay out up to £200 per week tax free for up to 12 weeks without a waiting or qualifying period. The policy covers not just football but other sports-related injuries, plus accidents onsite in the building trade.

Another alternative is the personal accident policies on offer from a wide range of insurance companies, and it may be worthwhile ringing around or contacting a broker to find the best-priced policy. The policies typically pay out either a weekly sum if you are temporarily off work, or a cash lump sum in the event of more serious disablement. For example, Commercial Union charges a 25-year-old man a premium of £21.30 per year for its Personal Accident Plan, which pays out £5,000 for death or loss of limbs, or £50 per week while absent from work.

Beware of two aspects of these plans, however. Standard personal accident plans have football as an exclusion, but as including football injuries costs only an extra 5-10 per cent, it is almost certainly worthwhile for the regular Sunday league player.

The other point to bear in mind is that these policies have "waiting" or "deferred" periods, in which the insurer will typically not pay out for at least the first two weeks when someone is off work. Home and contents policies offer little in the way of accident cover.

They can provide an element of personal liability insurance and coverage for sports equipment, but will not provide any financial assistance if you are off work with temporary or even longer-term injuries. Hospital cash plans are another option. These pay out a cash benefit while the policyholder is in hospital, whether it be private or national health.

For example, HSA will pay up to £80 per day for each night spent in hospital on policies that cost from £83.20 per year, and include physiotherapy costs of up to £104 from a private physiotherapist. The snag is that most football injuries, such as a broken leg, are now treated in hospital in a matter of days, so the payout is relatively small, and does not cover lost earnings in subsequent weeks.

A better way of guaranteeing your income while off work is a permanent health insurance (PHI) policy, but these do not come cheap. Insurers will allow you to insure between 50 to 65 per cent of your earnings until you are able to return to work. However, there are various catches, such as deferred periods of several months, and clauses in the contract which force you to return to work in any occupation. Seeking independent financial advice is essential before buying a PHI policy.

But what if you have not bought any insurances and an injury has left you literally flat on your back? Fortunately there is one last option: benevolent societies, which hand out grants and even a weekly payment to stricken sportsmen. The Sussex FA's benevolent fund, for example, paid out £5,000 each to three injured football players last season. So when the benevolent fund's collection tin is raided in front of you, remember that the next tackle could be as painful on your wallet as it is on your shin.

Broadstone Insurance Services 01202-696 166.



Learning a hard lesson

Jeff Gillam worked at British Gas for 30 years before setting up as a self-employed heating engineer last year. Then disaster struck. Playing Sunday league soccer, he broke his leg — and found himself out of a job and the team.

Mr Gillam, 47, club secretary for Lower Beverdean FA in Brighton, now strongly encourages self-employed club members to take out insurance rather than let an injury hit their income. After breaking his leg, Mr Gillam could not complete a job at the Brighton university and had to rely on £46 weekly sick pay. He said: "I had been working for British Gas for years and never thought about taking out insurance when I left. Many club members work for themselves, especially in the building trade, so now I hand out leaflets on B&CE's accident plan. A lot of county level clubs have their own insurance arrangements, but if you're in a pub team they can't afford it, which can leave you in a pretty dangerous situation."

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- 1997
 - Best 10 year Group Weighted Performance - Investment Intelligence
 - Best Risk Reward Fund - European - What PEP
 - 5 Year Best Unit Trust Manager (Smaller Group) - Standard & Poor's Microcap
 - Best International Capital Growth Investment Trust, 5 Years (Jupiter Primadone Growth) - Standard & Poor's Microcap
 - 1 Year Best Far East ex-Japan Investment Trust (Asian Investment) - Standard & Poor's Microcap
- 1996
 - Small Unit Trust Group of the Year - Investment Adviser
 - Large Investment Trust Group of the Year - Investment Adviser
 - Best Overall Trust - Primadone - Investment Trusts
 - UK and Europe Fund Manager of the Year - Money Management
 - Fund Management Group of the Year (100) - What Investment
 - Best Provider - Unit Trust Fund - Savings Monitor / Investment Intelligence
 - 1 Year UK Unit Trust Europe Sector (100) - European - Microcap
 - 1 Year UK Unit Trust UK EQ Income Sector (100) - Income - Microcap
 - 5 Year UK Unit Trust UK EQ Income Sector (100) - Income - Microcap
 - 4 Star Investment Trust Company - Financial Adviser / FFA Service Awards
 - Five Star Unit Trust Company - Financial Adviser / FFA Service Awards
- 1995
 - Best UK Growth Unit Trust - Investment Adviser
 - UK and Europe Fund Manager of the Year - Money Management
 - Best UK Equity Income Unit Trust - Investment Adviser
 - Best UK Unit Trust - Money Management
 - Best UK Equity Trust - UK Growth - Money Observer
 - Best UK Equity Income Trust - Income - Money Observer
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THE TIMES MONEY INFORMATION SERVICE

Easy way round used car maze

Alliance & Leicester has published a new guide to buying second-hand cars. Written by Quentin Wilson, of the BBC's Top Gear, it aims to take customers through the used-car buying process to make purchasers shrewd experts. All 300 A&L branches will have supplies of the guide. Telephone 0800-412 214.

Standard Life Bank has raised its Direct Access Savings rates to start at 7.35 per cent for those with £1 in their accounts and 7.41 per cent for balances between £5,000 and £12,000. The bank was opened to the public in January.

Help the Aged is urging everyone of pensionable age to make the most of their rights to claim benefit after Harriet Marman, the Social Security Secretary, said last week that more than one million pensioners entitled to claim are not doing so. Each of those pensioners could save hundreds of pounds between now and April with the aid of Help the Aged's free advice leaflet which explains how to work out if you are eligible and how to make a claim. The leaflet covers income support, housing benefit, council tax

benefit, social fund payments, health costs and funeral payments. For a copy of the leaflet send a s.a.e to Information Department (CYCJ), Help the Aged, St James's Walk, Clerkenwell Green, London, EC1R 0BB.

Barclays Bank is offering commission-free currency this week as the summer holiday season reaches its peak. Figures show that holiday bookings are 12 per cent above 1997 levels. Spanish pesetas and US dollars will be available commission-free for the rest of this month.

To take advantage of this special deal customers can order their currency at any of Barclays 1,975 branches or through the Barclays Travel Line for collection by the cut-off date, July 30. From August 1, Portman Building Society will increase interest rates by up to 0.4 per cent on its range of savings accounts. The society's branch-based Instant Access account will pay 5.9 per cent on savings of £100 or more (an increase of 0.3 per cent).

MARIANNE CURPHEY

SAVERS' BEST BUYS

Table with columns: Account, Notice of term, Deposit, Rate, Interest paid. Includes Instant Access Accounts from Standard Life Bank, C&G, First National, Northern Rock.

NOTICE ACCOUNTS & BONDS

Table with columns: Account, Notice of term, Deposit, Rate, Interest paid. Includes Chelsea BS, Standard Life Bank, Legal & General Bank.

FIRST TESSAS (TAX FREE)

Table with columns: Account, Notice of term, Deposit, Rate, Interest paid. Includes Ipswich BS, SAGA, Lambeth BS, Yorkshire BS.

CREDIT CARDS BEST BUYS

Table with columns: Card type, Interest per month, APR%, Fee per annum. Includes Capital One Bank, RBS Advanta, Nationwide BS.

PERSONAL LOANS BEST BUYS

Table with columns: APR, Monthly payment on £5,000 for 3yrs, Interest rate, NB. Includes Northern Rock, Yorkshire Bank, Direct Line.

CREDIT CARDS

Table with columns: Card type, Interest per month, APR%, Fee per annum. Includes Capital One Bank, RBS Advanta, Nationwide BS.

PERSONAL LOANS

Table with columns: APR, Monthly payment on £5,000 for 3yrs, Interest rate, NB. Includes Northern Rock, Yorkshire Bank, Direct Line.

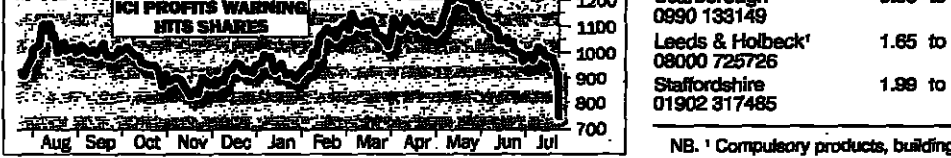
FIXED RATE

Table with columns: Gross coupon, Buying price, Gross yield, % Issue price, Minimum purchase amount. Includes Birmingham Midshires, Bradford & Bingley, Britannia.

PERPETUAL SUBORDINATED BONDS

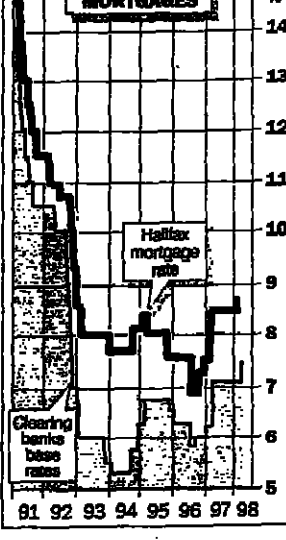
Table with columns: Lender, Interest rate, Loan size, Max %, Notes. Includes Chelt & Gloucester, Halifax, Halifax, Halifax, Bristol & West, Northern Rock.

SHARES IN FOCUS

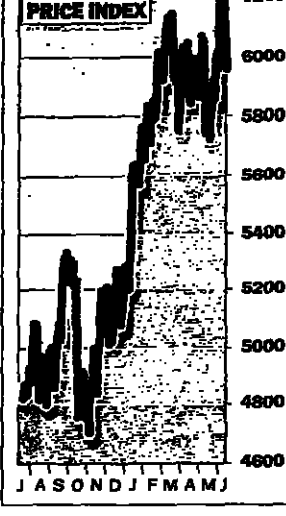


Source: Moneyfacts, the Monthly Guide to Investment & Mortgage Rates (01803 476747)

BASE RATES V MORTGAGES



FTSE 100 PRICE INDEX



LARGER LENDERS

Table with columns: Lender, Interest rate, Loan size, Max %, Notes. Includes Bank of Scotland, Northern Rock, Bank of Ireland.

LONDON LIFE

Table with columns: Lender, Interest rate, Loan size, Max %, Notes. Includes Bank of Scotland, Mansfield, Scarborough, Leeds & Holbeck, Standard Life.

PRUDENTIAL INDIVIDUAL LIFE FDS

Table with columns: Lender, Interest rate, Loan size, Max %, Notes. Includes Prudential, Standard Life, etc.

WIM ASSURANCE

Table with columns: Lender, Interest rate, Loan size, Max %, Notes. Includes WIM, etc.

WIM ASSURANCE

Table with columns: Lender, Interest rate, Loan size, Max %, Notes. Includes WIM, etc.

WIM ASSURANCE

Table with columns: Lender, Interest rate, Loan size, Max %, Notes. Includes WIM, etc.

WIM ASSURANCE

Table with columns: Lender, Interest rate, Loan size, Max %, Notes. Includes WIM, etc.

NATIONAL SAVINGS

Table with columns: Gross rate, At tax rates, Min/maximum investment, Notice, Contact. Includes Ordinary A/c, Investment A/c, Income Bond, etc.

PENSION ANNUITIES

Table with columns: Lender, Interest rate, Loan size, Max %, Notes. Includes Sun Life, Equitable Life, Commercial Union, etc.

STATISTICS COMPILED BY JACQUI SPRAY

Table with columns: Lender, Interest rate, Loan size, Max %, Notes. Includes Sun Life, Equitable Life, Commercial Union, etc.

FIRST-TIME BUYERS

Table with columns: Lender, Interest rate, Loan size, Max %, Notes. Includes Dudley, Westleyan Hm Ln, Halifax, Sun Bank Ltd, Alliance & Leicester.

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ALGON LIFE ASSURANCE

Table with columns: Bid, Offer, Why, Yld. Includes various life insurance products.

BRITANNIA LIFE

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CITY OF WESTMINSTER ASSURANCE

Table with columns: Bid, Offer, Why, Yld. Includes various life insurance products.

CLERICAL MIDDLESEX INVESTMENT

Table with columns: Bid, Offer, Why, Yld. Includes various life insurance products.

ALLIED FINANCIAL ASSURANCE

Table with columns: Bid, Offer, Why, Yld. Includes various life insurance products.

PRIME LIFE ASSURANCE

Table with columns: Bid, Offer, Why, Yld. Includes various life insurance products.

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Table with columns: Bid, Offer, Why, Yld. Includes various life insurance products.

EAGLE STAR LIFE ASSURANCE

Table with columns: Bid, Offer, Why, Yld. Includes various life insurance products.

SHARPS LIFE ASSURANCE

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SCOTTISH LIFE INVESTMENTS

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When paying by direct debit can become a standing joke

You can pay for electricity, life insurance or a car with one. It is convenient and saves you the bother of remembering to make regular payments. But it can also go wrong.

Paying by direct debit for a wide range of goods and services is very common, and used by an estimated 25 million people. But once you have set up the payment arrangement with the bank, can you simply sit back and forget about it?

One Times reader was startled to find that £100 was taken out of her account under a direct debit arrangement she believed had been cancelled four years previously.

After four years, the AA raided a reader's bank account to renew a cancelled membership

The direct debit was for membership of the AA, which she had cancelled with the AA although she had not thought it necessary to inform her bank separately.

On checking a recent bank statement however, she noticed that a direct debit payment had been made in June to the AA. On pursuing the matter, she was told that her membership originally had been "suspended" rather than cancelled. The AA's explanation was that a letter had been sent out asking her to rejoin and although there was no reply to this — it had been sent to an old address — it had been interpreted as a wish to rejoin.

The matter has now been resolved and the money is to be repaid. However, there remains the mystery of how the money was taken when usually says the AA, if a member does rejoin, a new direct debit agreement has to be completed.

Whatever the explanation, it does highlight a number of issues concerning direct debits. For example should you, the customer, also inform the

bank as well as the recipient of your payments, if you decide to cancel?

According to Chris Eadie, Deputy Banking Ombudsman, the onus is on the company or organisation receiving the money to act on the customer's instructions and inform the bank. Although that is the theory, says Mr Eadie, "our advice is for the customer to instruct both the company and the bank, and to take a belt and braces approach".

The AA says that if a member cancels, no more money would be taken by direct debit, but that it would

be the member, rather than the AA, who would be expected to inform the bank.

"We receive a fair number of complaints about direct debit arrangements," says Mr Eadie. "It is not necessarily a very large number but the problems that arise could cause a lot of heartache."

The more frequent complaints he adds, arise from instances where direct debit payments have been wrongly cancelled by the bank. For example, if the premium on household insurance or a life assurance policy is not paid, the risk may not be covered leaving the policyholder vulnerable when making a claim.

Banks and building societies do offer a direct debit guarantee to customers. Lloyds Bank, for example, says that if the amount or payment dates change, the customer will be informed in advance by the organisation receiving the money.

In addition, it says that if an error is made by the bank a full refund is guaranteed.

Whatever the guarantees, Mr Eadie advises people to check bank statements.

CLARE STEWART

Gavin Lumsden dons green-tinted glasses to scrutinise the oft-maligned world of ethical investing



Couple joined army of ethical investors

Christine and Graham Twist decided to become ethical investors last year when the Salvation Army, their employer, offered them a flat above its London headquarters.

Having sold their home the Twists were faced with the dilemma of how to invest the proceeds. After salting some of it away safely on deposit they realised they had to make a foray on the stock market if it was going to grow, although initially Christine was reluctant to take the risk. Unit trusts and Peps were the obvious answer, but for the Twists, not just any fund would do.

Christine, pictured left, who manages the Salvation Army's payroll, said: "Both my husband and I are Christians so the idea of investing with a company which thought about where the money was going was attractive to us. We particularly did

not want our money going into pornography or companies involved in damaging the environment. Years ago we used to smile at people like Greenpeace but now we realise they are right. We like travelling and are very concerned about the rain forests."

Not wishing to put all their eggs in one basket the Twists opted for a variety of ethical funds run by Friends Provident, Henderson, Jupiter, NPI and Standard Life.

Christine now believes others should be encouraged to follow suit. "Ethical investment is not something most people think about. But if it was suggested to them I am sure more people would consider it."

She agreed the Personal Investment Authority should require financial advisers to give investors an ethical option when discussing their finances.

Eiris eyes are smiling as green shares come good

Far from damaging your wealth ethical investing can be a way of making money, new research has shown. Conventional wisdom in the City has always held that investors who let their social or environmental principles dictate where they put their money receive poorer returns than average. This has been exploded as a myth by the Ethical Investment Research Service (Eiris) which has analysed the returns investors could have enjoyed following five different ethical policies in the Nineties.

Their research shows that ethical investors could have made as much money as ordinary investors. This has surprised cynics in the City and even hardened supporters of the burgeoning ethical investment camp. It is also welcome news for the growing number of people who have turned to ethical funds as a way of investing in the stockmarket with a conscience.

Such funds have attracted over 300,000 investors and more than £2.2 billion in recent years, a reaction in part to high profile disputes such as that over Shell's Brent Spa oil rig and the growing public awareness of the amount of household goods made by impoverished overseas workers.

Traditionally, ethical investment has worked by screening out firms involved in activities deemed unacceptable, whether these be in tobacco, alcohol and pornography, or more recently, in military production, environmental damage, animal testing or exploitation of the third world.

But investors who exclude all these trades can end up rejecting most of the companies listed on the London Stock Exchange and almost all of the biggest businesses in the UK. City traditionalists argued that this was far too crude, showed wanton disregard for profit-making opportunities and went against the entire grain of investing. Changing the world was all very well but it did not make

money, they said. Eiris has proved them wrong. To make its point Eiris constructed five indices consisting of companies who conformed to different ethical criteria. These were dated from the end of 1990 and their performance compared with the FTSE All Share, the main index which measures the share performance of every company listed on the London Stock Exchange.

Eiris discovered that four out of the five indices would have beaten the FTSE All Share between 1991 and 1998. Whilst the All Share turned £100 into £269.57, investors who had followed Eiris' Environmental Damage Avoidance index would have got £296.39. As its name suggests this screens out companies involved in a wide range of environmentally unfriendly activities such as intensive farming, nuclear power and road

had started environmental initiatives. Once again these were good stocks. A initial £100 invested in them would have become £281 in seven years.

For two of the indices, Charities Avoidance and Ethical Balanced, Eiris combined negative and positive screening to pick stocks. The former was less stringent and did slightly better, returning £274.73 to investors compared with £270.42 from the Ethical Balanced index.

Strangely, the worst performer was the Environment Management index which returned £249.72, £20 less than the All Share. It positively selected 104 companies which are striving to improve their environmental impact, even if their current practices make them unacceptable for the top performing Environmental Damage Avoidance index. Karen Eldridge of

make-up of the All Share. However, it appears to get better returns. Since 1990 the index would have multiplied an investor's money by 3.5 times compared to the All Share which would have trebled the investment.

Anne-Marie O'Connor, senior investment analyst at NPI, says ethical investors are getting enhanced performance because extra research has gone into picking their stocks and shares.

"We take a triple bottom line approach to companies. We assess them on a traditional financial basis but we also look at them from environmental and social points of view. What we end up with are the best managed companies who realise that social and environmental concerns will become the financial issues of tomorrow," she said.

Eiris' and NPI's findings are

The best managed companies realise social and environmental concerns will become the leading financial issues of tomorrow

building. This left 519, mostly smaller and medium-sized, companies.

The second best performer, the Responders index, took a different approach. Instead of rejecting companies for having a negative impact on the world, Eiris used a set of positive criteria to select companies which were working hard to improve their effect on the community, their workforce and the environment.

A total of 139 companies, many of them large businesses, were picked because they recognised trade unions, had good training schemes and practised equal opportunities or

Eiris admitted this result was puzzling but said the underlying message was clear: "We set up five indices to show that there is more than just one type of ethical investor. It is quite clear that applying an ethical investment policy does not lose you money."

NPI Asset Management, a leading ethical fund manager, has backed Eiris' findings. In May it set up a Social Index which will track 150 companies with ethical policies towards the environment, their workforce and the wider community. The index is designed to mimic the

bound to increase pressure on trustees of pension schemes to consider investing much more of the £830 billion of workers' money under their management along ethical lines.

Until now trustees have been rightly nervous of investing ethically, aware that their fiduciary duty is simply to get the best returns for scheme members. However, if Eiris and NPI are right the two may be less at odds than previously thought. The Government put the issue firmly on the political agenda this month when it announced it was considering forcing trustees to publish their stance on

ethical investment in their annual report to members. Eiris' Karen Eldridge predicts employees will be up in arms when they discover their pension money is funding "unethical" enterprises around the world and will demand change.

However, although ethical investing may not lose you money it will not necessarily get you the very best returns. Much of ethical investing inevitably favours smaller companies whose fortunes will ebb and flow with the economic cycle. Whilst the ethical indices have put up a good fight against the All Share, against the blue chip FTSE 100 index they have been trounced as shares in banks and pharmaceuticals — not the most ethical of stocks — have surged ahead.

Richard Hunter, of Holden Meehan, an independent financial adviser in London specialising in ethical investments, says the average ethical fund grew by 18.6 per cent last year compared with 22 per cent by the average conventional UK growth fund. Nevertheless, his clients are happy, he says. "For my clients the financial return is not the be-all and end-all of investing. They want to take their money out of the building society but put it somewhere so they can still sleep at night."

Conscience-driven savers are becoming increasingly spoiled for choice when it comes to ethical investments. Since Friends Provident, the Quaker-linked insurer, launched Stewardship, the first ethical fund in 1984, the scope of ethical investments has been extended to encompass Peps, pensions and endowment policies.

Some of the biggest names in investment are now in the game, including Aberdeen Prolific, CIS, Credit Suisse, Henderson Investors, Jupiter, NPI and Standard Life.

■ Eiris: 0171-735 1351, Holden Meehan: 0171-404 6442.

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Travel insurers wash their hands of 2000 bug

Holidaymakers planning to celebrate the millennium abroad risk travelling without adequate cover as insurers move to exempt themselves from problems related to the millennium bug.

Travel insurers have begun adding disclaimers to their policies stating they will not settle claims for cancellation, disruption, delays or lost luggage if they are related to the Year 2000 problem.

However, a number of insurers have maintained they would still be paying out for personal accident claims and medical expenses even if they were caused by computer failure as a result of the millennium problem.

The move follows steps taken by commercial insurers which have also added disclaimers to their policies leaving companies without cover for public liability. The exclusions would particularly affect airlines and travel companies and are likely to result in a number of holidaymakers travelling without any sort of cover against millennium-related disruptions.

Royal & SunAlliance is among major insurers which have introduced a total exclusion on public liability cover following guidelines set by the

Susan Emmett
says millennium holidaymakers will not get adequate cover

Association of British Insurers (ABI). Phil Bell, technical manager for Royal & SunAlliance, said: "The millennium bug is a man-made problem. The costs of putting it right should fall upon the business. Insurance is no substitute for proper management of a business."

From September, the insurer will also be adding disclaimers to its personal travel cover ruling out any claims for disruption, although personal accident claims would be settled. Royal & SunAlliance said there will be no change to personal accident cover.

ABI guidelines state that losses caused directly by the millennium bug would not be covered, but claims would be settled if there are consequential losses which are covered under the policy such as theft, flooding, fire or medical expenses. The ABI said that greater uncertainty surrounds

travel cover and that there will be more variation among travel insurers. However, the trade association conceded that holidaymakers may be left without adequate cover and advises travellers to pursue any problems through legal channels.

The millennium bug is caused by some computers' inability to recognise the date change to 2000, which could lead to disastrous consequences. The problem for insurers is that although disruption is predictable, the full extent of the problem is hard to quantify, making it impossible to underwrite.

Jonathan Biles, managing director for WorldCover Direct, one of the travel insurers exempting itself from millennium claims, said: "Nobody in the world knows what the implications are. It is very difficult to get to grips with what you are actually going to cover."

Direct Line, which also offers travel insurance, said that holidaymakers have already started taking out cover for travel in the next century. A spokeswoman said: "We will not be covering claims for cancelled or delayed flights, but we have no intention of excluding medical cover."

Matthew Wall finds a sudden change of emphasis at our two investment clubs

And then there were three

Choosing the right time to sell a share is often a more difficult decision than spotting a good opportunity to buy it.

The two investment clubs whose fortunes *The Times* has been tracking over the past months have been forced to make some tough decisions about when to bale out when the shares in their portfolio were hit by stock market jitters - and have responded by turning much of their holding into cash.

The Victoria Investment Club in Truro, Cornwall, off-loaded five stocks when stop-loss limits were transgressed during the recent stock market turmoil. A stop-loss is a mechanism used by professional investors to limit losses when shares are falling. When the share price drops below a certain threshold, the investor automatically sells.

The club made decent profits on Wescol, Unesco, and Taylor Nelson, and losses on DBS Management and Brit Allcroft.

The decision to restructure the portfolio was prompted by concerns about the floundering Japanese economy and the rest of the troubled East Asian region, which just a few weeks ago had contributed to a depressed UK stock market.

The FTSE 100 has had a particularly volatile run recently. Business confidence in the UK was reported to have plummeted to a new low and inflation appeared to be creeping up, promising inevitable interest rate rises in its wake.

Even when the FTSE 100 index passed the 6,000 threshold, trading was thin and only the biggest shares were regularly traded. The index fell again this week after a series of profit warnings from UK companies and fears about Japan.

Smaller companies in the FTSE 250 and FTSE 350 indices have received little support from institutional investors.

Derek Richards, former chairman of the club, said: "Of the five shares we sold, two have continued to go down whereas three have gone up. But a stop-loss system is like a house insurance policy. You pay for it but you do not burst into tears if the house doesn't burn down."

Although the sell-off has



Gone golfing till the market rises: from left, Nigel Bevington, Mike Carroll and Jim Wray of Maydown Mergers

left them with more than £9,000 cash, there was little enthusiasm for splashing out on new stocks. Only two stock recommendations were welcomed unanimously. The Victorians decided to buy £2,000 worth of Springwood, an unusual £20 million company that has switched its business from timber to nightclubs.

They are impressed with the chairman's track record and are keen to buy despite a recent share price rise from 94p to 137p.

They also decided to increase their holding in Albemarle & Bond, the pawnbroker and cheque-cashing business. Their £1,500 investment, made in June, is already showing a £300 profit. The only other addition to the portfolio was Orbis, a security support services company.

The Maydown Mergers club in Londonderry, Northern Ireland, has carried out the stop-loss policy so rigorously that there are only three stocks left in the portfolio - Chiroscience, Go-Ahead Group, and Pace Micro. Of those, Go-Ahead is showing a profit of £900 on their original £1,500 investment. The others are showing losses. The sale of Bodycote, Galen Holdings and May-

flower raised £4,750, representing a profit of £1,340, so the club is fairly satisfied.

Mike Carroll, club chairman, said: "We are going to stick with Pace Micro despite its recent poor results. We still believe it is going to take off at some time because it makes set-top boxes for digital television. If digital television doesn't take off, however, we are in trouble."

Despite the recovery in the stock market, the Mergers have little confidence in it at the moment. They are still

investigating the potential of warrants as a high-risk but potentially rewarding investment.

Many of the club members have their own investments that tend to be less volatile, so they feel they can be more adventurous with their club investments. Interest in Irish smaller companies has waned after a number of reports warning of possible increases in interest rates as the country prepares for economic and monetary union.

The club now has 12 members, down from an original 19, and Mike Carroll believes it is working much better. It is more focused and everyone is responsible for carrying out some research into new investment opportunities.

What both clubs have learnt over the past month is that a stop-loss policy can be a pretty blunt instrument when market sentiment rather than company performance is the prime cause of a falling stock market.

International departures



Computer chaos: Travellers face picking up the bill for air delays and cancellations

MAYDOWN MERGERS INVESTMENT CLUB			
Portfolio as @ 14/7/98 worth £3,038.40. Notional profit £581.51.			
Company	Shares	Price now	Profit/loss (£)
Chiroscience	113	292.5p	-275.70
Go-Ahead Group	300	800.5p	24.65
Pace Micro	1,746	54.5p	-67.44
TOTAL			581.51
VICTORIA INVESTMENT CLUB			
Portfolio @ 13/7/98 worth £23,177.20. Notional profit £7,082.09.			
Company	Shares	Price now	Profit/loss (£)
Albemarle	2237	86.50p	521.84
Media Business	2000	109.50p	948.00
Dolphin Packaging	859	257.50p	711.55
Mice Group	16830	20.00p	1,628.00
Television Corp	875	234.00p	242.25
RPS Group	750	342.50p	965.87
Isotron	480	547.50p	822.17
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Helen Pridham examines how to keep some life in those Peps

A great wrapper - but what about the contents?

For most investors, the greatest attraction of personal equity plans (PEPs) is the fact that any income generated by the investments within the plans is tax free.

However, these tax savings have to be offset against any extra charges made for the PEP wrapper. For basic rate taxpayers the eventual savings can be marginal. They may even find that it is cheaper in the end to hold the same investments outside a PEP if the plan charges exceed the tax credit.

Many more investors will find themselves in this situation after next April when the tax credit within PEPs will be reduced from 20 to 10 per cent.

The reduction will coincide with the introduction of individual savings plans (ISAs) which will replace PEPs. Existing PEPs can be continued but investors may need to check whether they are still worthwhile.

Those most likely to be affected will be investment trust and share PEPs where extra annual administration charges are levied by the plan managers. As Jason Hollands of BEST Investment, the PEP adviser, says: "For investors with unit trust plans - most PEP investors in other words - there is no need to worry. Intense competition in the early years of PEPs meant that any extra charges were soon dropped by managers. Nowadays it can easily be cheaper to buy a unit trust through a PEP than outside it."

With other PEPs the calculations will depend on a number of factors including the scale of charges, your tax rate and the yield on the investment trust or shares. Annual charges typically vary between 0.5 per cent and 1.25 per cent plus VAT, with discretionary managed share PEPs usually the most expensive of all.

Justin Urquhart Stewart of Barclays Stockbrokers, says: "The value of PEPs for basic rate taxpayers will become more questionable after next April. They will have to look at costs very carefully."

Charges on investment trust PEPs have gradually been coming down over the years. Around a half of managers still

charge percentage annual fees ranging from 0.5 to 1.25 per cent, but many now levy instead a flat fee of £25 to £60.

There are also some, including AIB Govett, Alliance Trust, Fidelity and Finsbury Asset Management, that make no extra annual charge for trusts held in a PEP.

But at Invesco, which charges a 1 per cent annual fee, marketing manager Adam Cooke said: "We have no plans at present to reduce our fee. Like many investment trust managers we subcontract the administration of our PEPs and this is a service we have to pay for."

Nevertheless, Henderson divisional director Jonathan Thomas acknowledges that the reduction in the tax credits will impact on the value of the PEP wrapper for investment trust investors and he believes many managers are looking at their costs carefully as a result.

He said: "I think most managers are reviewing their charges in the run up to the introduction of ISAs, and if they decide to reduce their fees, charges on existing PEPs are also likely to be amended."

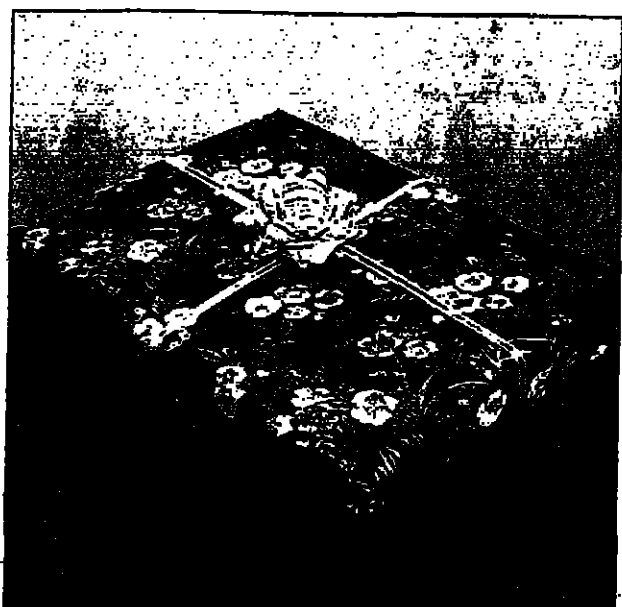
The amount generated by the investment trust or shares will play an important role in determining whether the tax saved covers the cost of the PEP.

The other key factor is your tax rate. With the current tax credit of 20 per cent, a basic rate taxpayer investing £6,000 in a general PEP needs a yield of at least 3 per cent to ensure the tax savings cover the cost of an annual 0.5 per cent charge or £30 flat fee.

Higher-rate taxpayers save more tax so they can break even with a yield of 1.5 per cent. However, when tax credits are reduced to 10 per cent both sets of taxpayers may need to consider switching to higher yielding investments.

If their annual PEP charges are higher than 0.5 per cent, basic rate taxpayers may want to consider a more drastic move.

They could switch to a cheaper PEP. Even though new PEPs will not be on sale after April 1999, it will still be possible to transfer existing plans between



managers without affecting the tax status of the investment. This could include transferring from an investment trust or share PEP to a unit trust plan.

Some investors may even be tempted to do away with the PEP wrapper. However, Invesco's Adam Cooke points out that tax credits are not the only benefit of PEPs.

He says: "The freedom from capital gains tax is also an important long-term advantage. Even though many investors think this is not an issue for them because they can utilize their annual capital gains tax

allowance, the strength of the market in recent years has shown that this tax could be more of a potential problem than they think if their investments are not within a PEP."

Even PEP investors who do not have to worry about costs because they hold unit trusts will, of course, see their income fall as a result of the reduction in tax credit.

One option they have is to switch to a corporate-bond PEP. These plans will still enjoy a 20 per cent tax advantage because the income they distribute is classed as interest.

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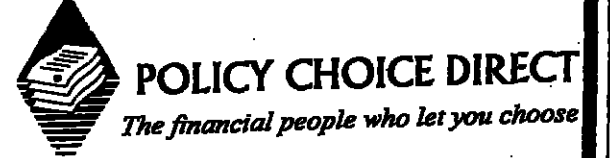
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Graham Searjeant on why faster is not always better

WEEKEND MONEY

A LITTLE EXTRA 48

Why it is more attractive now to be an angel



Prepare for the hard times

Experts are divided on whether a recession is about to hit us, but if the worst happens, you can cushion the blow, says **Caroline Merrell**

Is the economy on the brink of recession? The recent rise in interest rates, with its crippling effect on exporters, coupled with a set of retail figures showing a marked slowdown in spending, all point to an economy that is stalling. Further bad news emerged this week with profit warnings from Pilkington, Hamleys, ICI, Capital Corporation and Scapa. Some companies have already resorted to redundancy programmes, the most notable being MFI, the furniture company, which earlier this month announced that it planned to axe 1,500 jobs because of poor sales. MFI's falling sales volumes were also seen by some as a further indication that the housing market was slowing down. Rover Group also announced a rash of job losses.

A poll of 26 City economists gave warning this week that one more interest rate rise by the Bank of England would put Britain on the brink of recession.

Recent figures from the Building Societies Association reveal that new lending is diminishing, and house price indices from the Nationwide and the Halifax suggest that house price inflation is beginning to drop off. A slight downturn could be accompanied by a rise in unemployment across many companies and industrial sectors.

So are we heading towards a repeat of the early Nineties, characterised by unemployment and the violence of the poll tax riots? The experts say much depends on whether the next interest rate movement is up or down, but anyone who fears that they could be caught up in a recession could consider taking some action to minimise the impact of a downturn in the economy.

MORTGAGES: For many, their biggest single outlay will be monthly loan payments. The variable interest



There are fears recession could bring job losses and a repeat of the civil unrest as witnessed in the poll tax riots in Trafalgar Square in 1990

rate offered by the high street lenders is nearly 9 per cent, while some fixed loans offer rates that are around the 7 per cent mark. The variable loan rate is unlikely to drop by the full 2 per cent differential, so anyone who is currently employed could consider remortgaging to fix their loan. Remortgaging costs are about £800, which on bigger loans could be easily recuperated by a lower fixed rate mortgage.

Jonathan Gumpel, of Brooks Macdonald Gayer Asset Management, said that anyone considering remortgaging should make sure that the products they switch to carry no redemption penalties.

Mr Gumpel said: "Use Peps/unit trust savings plans to pay off the mortgage rather than repayments or

endowments. This builds up funds to repay loans that are readily accessible in the short or long term in the case of dire need." It might also be worth considering taking out mortgage protection insurance.

DEBT: Credit card companies continue to charge exorbitant amounts of interest on their cards. Annual rates on some such as Barclaycard can reach 22.5 per cent. Those in work should consider paying off as much of this debt as possible.

Graham Bates, chairman of Bates & Partners, said: "You could stop regular savings to a unit trust monthly savings plan and redirect the contributions to reduce personal debt." It could also be worth consider-

ing taking out a personal loan to pay off credit card debts. Personal loans carry interest rates that are around half the rates on credit cards. Again, you should consider taking out loan insurance, which will give some protection against redundancy. But check the small print. Some policies will not pay out if the borrower is sacked rather than made redundant.

SAVINGS: It could be worth building up short term reserves in tax-exempt savings accounts (Tessas) or deposit accounts, which could provide a cushion in the event of redundancy.

INVESTMENTS: Advisers consider switching investments to prepare for any economic downturn.

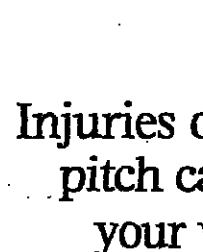
Moving money from equities which are deemed to be high-risk, into corporate bonds or gilts could be one way of trimming the risk. Mr Bates said: "You could consider transferring equity-based Peps to fixed interest corporate bond Peps, which offer a safer environment. However, be aware that this might reduce your long-term growth prospects." He also believes that investors should consider switching investments from the UK to continental Europe, which has a positive outlook.

Gavin Oldham, director of the Share Centre said: "Steps can be taken to soften the effect by moving into defensive investments. In this sort of environment interest rates would fall and this would benefit fixed-interest type holdings."

INSIDE



50 Marianne Curphey on better deals for borrowers



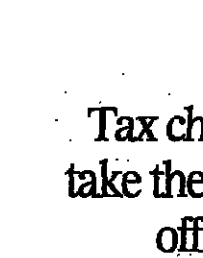
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BUSINESS NEWS PAGES 23-27

WEEKEND MONEY is edited by Anne Ashworth

Nationwide ballot papers biased, claim pro-flotation voters

Members of Nationwide Building Society this week voted by the narrowest of margins to remain a society. The vote was nail-bitingly close, with the board winning by just 33,710 - 50.8 per cent of the 7.2 million that voted were in favour of Nationwide remaining a society, 49.2 per cent voted for conversion.

The victory, as Charles Nunneley, the chairman, put it was not "an overwhelming vote in favour of mutuality". However, it almost certainly brings to an end for the time being the wave of society conversions that have released an estimated £25 billion into the economy in the form of shares and cash.

A spokesman for Nationwide described the win as a "defining moment" and claimed that the banks and the recently-converted societies were the biggest losers in the vote.

Nationwide, with its policy of offering a mortgage rate that is on average 0.6 per cent better than the Halifax, and offering savings rates that are better than the recently-converted banks, has already begun to have an impact on the savings and loan market, with the Halifax being one of the biggest losers in terms of market share.

Nationwide does not now have to face a similar vote for another three years, although members that favour conversion can stand for election on an annual basis.

The two members in favour of flotation who stood for election this time around, Andrew Muir, a recruitment consultant, and Michael Hardern, the eccentric former Royal Butler, lost their bid to join the board by a much bigger margin than the actual conversion vote, indicating that any further attempts by pro-conversion candidates are likely to be unsuccessful. Mr Muir, disappointed as he was by losing the vote, vowed to stand again next year. He said "the vote was very close" and claimed that the forms had made it more difficult for



Ingram: "Hardly an overwhelming endorsement"

members to cast their votes against the board. Mr Hardern claimed the vote was a hollow victory for Nationwide. He said: "The tide is turning our way." A number of members were unhappy with the way the vote was handled, specifically citing a voting form that "encouraged members to back the board". One member who remains unconvinced about Nationwide's victory is Alan Ingram from Scotland. He said: "I think the presentation of the ballot paper was totally

biased. I have complained to the electoral reform society and the ombudsman. I also intend to write to my MP." When originally issued, the ballot papers were criticised for explicitly spelling out the views of the board. He added: "They have just managed to scrape the most marginal and questionable support for retaining mutual status - 50.8 per cent against 49.2 per cent is hardly an overwhelming endorsement."

CAROLINE MERRELL

Standard Life snub to 'high cost' Isa product

Standard Life, the largest mutual assurance company in Europe, will not be selling the life assurance part of individual savings accounts (Isas) because the product is too complicated and offers no significant benefits to its customers.

The news is a blow to the Government which will launch the new tax-free savings vehicle next April as a replacement to personal equity plans (Peps) and tax exempt special savings accounts (Tessas).

Although the rules governing Isas are yet to be confirmed, the insurer believes other major life companies could follow its lead and that life assurance Isas will be left to smaller companies and friendly societies.

Instead, Standard Life says it will concentrate on offering the cash and equity element of Isas.

Isas will allow investors to put a total of £5,000 a year into equities or £1,000 in life assurance and £1,000 in cash with the rest in stock market investments.

Standard Life said the limit on the life assurance Isas means charges would be too high relative to premiums.

Other major insurers said they are waiting for the final regulations before making a decision. Steve Abbott, marketing director for Legal & General, said: "There is a lot of debate going on whether the Isa element adds anything or not. Standard Life has got a point when it says it could be costly. But it is surprising it has made an announcement ahead of the final regulations."

SUSAN EMMETT

Only

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Bond's Spanish retreat up for sale

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ANNE ROBINSON



Why are people so mawkish about Diana?

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THE TIMES

WEEKEND

SATURDAY JULY 25 1998

Doris Karloff, the Tory darling



Ann Widdecombe at home in her flat in South London. "I am not lonely and I don't regret being single. There is so much to fill my life. And I do not take my teddy bears to bed. I am far too grown up"

Once derided for her forthright manner, Ann Widdecombe is now the Tories' brightest star. Bill Frost meets the woman who likes whisky and teddy bears

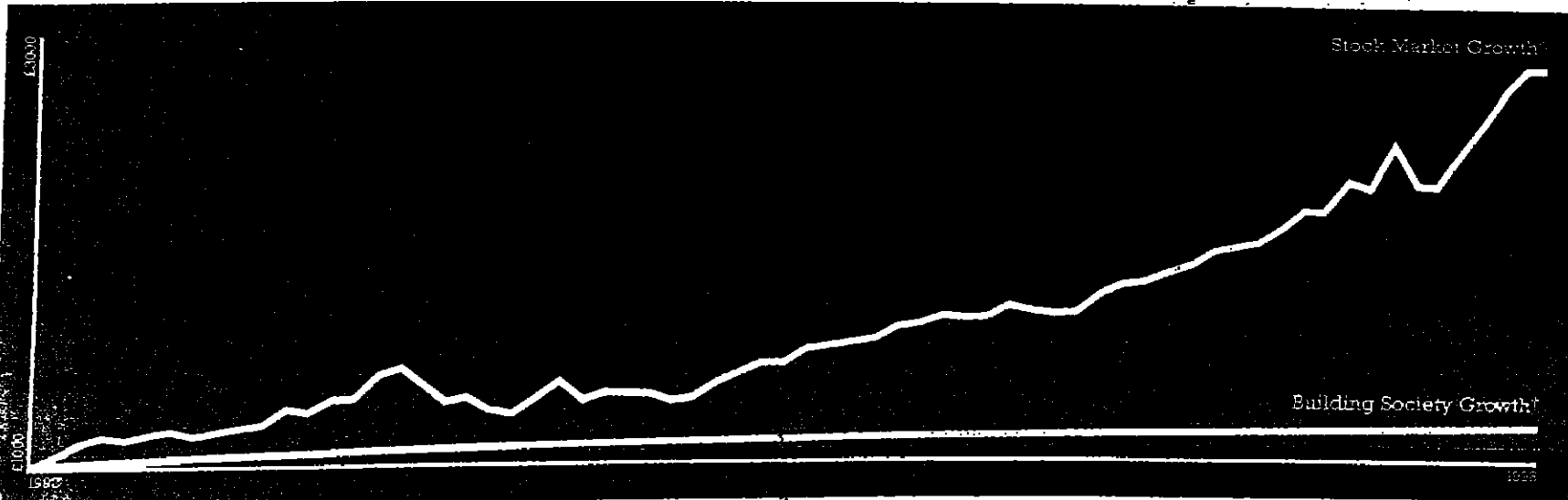
Westminster soothsayers were consigning Ann Widdecombe to the dustbin of political history a year ago. Today she is a Tory icon and the critics' predictions have been confounded. Now lionised by the party faithful, she seems set for promotion in the forthcoming Tory reshuffle and a hero's welcome at conference. "Carpe diem - that means seize the day," says Miss Widdecombe, who, had she not entered politics, would have been a Latin teacher. "I will not speak of reshuffles,

but there is only one job I want - the Home Secretary's. Well, the Shadow Home Secretary's for the moment." As even the most feckless student of contemporary politics must be aware, plain speaking is Miss Widdecombe's strong suit. Once such honesty threatened her career but now her time has come. She has been made over by a middle-market tabloid with fashion gurus providing a designer wardrobe and given a taste of television presentation by Channel 4. There is even a novel in waiting. Sticks and stones may break her bones, but names will

never hurt Miss Widdecombe - aka Doris Karloff - perhaps the most formidable bare-knuckle bruiser in the Shadow Cabinet. Ridiculed by the redtop tabloids for her Hammer House of Horror wardrobe and allegedly sinister looks, hate object among the friends of Michael Howard for sinking his leadership challenge after the May 1997 Tory meltdown, this woman, who says she is "overweight and

Continued on page 2

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Ann Widdecombe at Oxford in 1973 and, right, as Conservative candidate for Plymouth Devonport in 1983



With her young friends Theodora and Nikos Louridas. "Ann is one of the most lovely people you could hope to meet"



Miss Widdecombe chats to Janet Howes, a patient at Guy's Hospital. Right, her Commons attack on Michael Howard



Ann Widdecombe's honesty once threatened her career but she now seems set for promotion in the Tory reshuffle

Continued from page 1
ugly" brims with charm and unexpected vulnerability. Her flat in Kennington, southeast London, is a haven. Only a trusted few have the telephone number and Miss Widdecombe often answers callers with a gruff "Karloff here". Her study, decked out with red boxes from her days as a minister, is the inner sanctum. A collection of teddy bears presides over work in progress.

"They have been handed down through my family over the past 80 years. My favourites are Tommy — the battered one — and Kroo the Koala."

though she is about to tackle the housework. However, there is not a speck of dirt; the flat is unnervingly tidy. "I don't do the cleaning myself, far too busy. A firm comes in," she says, stroking a wet finger along the sideboard in search of dust. "I am not obsessively fastidious. Sometimes the place gets quite messy with all my papers, but I need order around me. Most people do."

Above the sofa where she has curled up kitenishly for photographs with two teddy bears and her old Home Office red ministerial box, are photographs of a meeting in Rome with Pope John Paul II. A convert to the faith after years in the Church of England and a period of agnosticism, Miss Widdecombe describes her move to Roman Catholicism as "the best decision I ever made".

As we return to the kitchen she laughs when asked if she minds being lampooned so cruelly. "It is water off a duck's back." However, when one has been described variously by enemies at Westminster and on Fleet Street as "podge, shrill ... with the looks of an Albanian goalkeeper ... the Thing from the Black Lagoon", surely any politician is entitled to feel a touch aggrieved and paranoid. Not the 50-year-old MP for Maidstone and Weald though. "Life is too short to worry about that sort of rubbish," she says.

Coffee bubbles in the percolator while Miss Widdecombe makes sandwiches — "British beef, of course" — and sizes up the opposition. A casual inquiry about her sulphurous observation that Mr Howard has "something of the night" about him, provokes the first and only frown over lunch. "I won't talk about that," she says firmly. "Why don't you have something to eat. The sandwiches have just been cut." She will discuss God, her love of children, the sadness that she will never have any of her own, and even late-night solitary drinking habits. There is a touching frankness about such honesty, and ambiguity to all the denials that life as a spinster can be lonely.

In her leggings and T-shirt, Ann Widdecombe looks as still terrible. It seemed like the end of something wonderful, but within a couple of days I had this huge sense of release. But why has there never been a replacement for Colin? "I didn't set my face against it — it just didn't happen," she has said.

Nevertheless, her love of family stability and children seems poignantly, almost painfully, needy. There is much more than something of the mother in Miss Widdecombe. She clucks over unfinished sandwiches and asks if one would like more. She enjoys the company of men but cannot prevent herself treating them like naughty little boys. But a punishing schedule seems destined to exclude the world beyond Westminster. Her only sensual luxuries are a morning bar of chocolate and a midnight whisky in bed. "The alarm goes off about

6.15am — the same time my first cup of coffee is brewed. I read *The Times* and listen to the *Today* programme. It is lucky there is no one here. I am very bad-tempered before doing a couple of hours work and going to the Commons. "By the time I get home it is usually gone midnight. I listen to the radio once more before retiring to bed with a Scotch and soda. I manage about five or six hours' sleep each night."

She has no television to distract her. "The BBC are the worst purveyors of filth, bad language and violence — the rot really set in with Dennis Potter — why would I want that coming into my life?" Next month she will "relax" by fell-walking or hill climbing in Britain. She will also travel to Singapore, where her father was posted by the Ministry of Defence when she was a small child. "I will see the amah who nursed me. I still regard her as a second mother."

And there will always be time for the family she never had — Theodora and Nikos Louridas, who live above her local kebab shop. She befriended the teenagers — they call her Shorry — after moving into her flat 12 years ago.

Theodora and Nikos view Miss Widdecombe as "a big sister", recalling how, when they were younger, she checked their schoolwork and laughed so loudly at silly jokes that she scared customers in the kebab shop. They seem baffled at the Doris Karloff tag. "I do not understand why Ann has such a fierce reputation," says Theodora, now 19. "She is one of the most lovely people you could hope to meet."

Ann Widdecombe almost blushes with pleasure when she speaks of the teenagers. "We have such fun," she says, with more than a hint of wistfulness. "But you are wrong. I am not lonely — there is so much to fill my life. And I do not take my teddy bears to bed. I am far too grown up."

There is no underlying sadness at not having children," she says, staring at photographs of her brother's family. "But if you ask if I would rather have had some, then the answer must be 'Yes'."

"Most people do," she has said. "I probably did want the relationship to persist. I was in love and it lasted for three years. How it ended is a private matter, but it was amicable." She said she was not heartbroken. "I compare it to going into Opposition after years in Government. We had dinner the night it happened: the decision to end it. It had been breaking up for a long time, but it was not like that. It seemed like the end of something wonderful."

But why has there never been a replacement for Colin? "I didn't set my face against it — it just didn't happen," she has said.

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● THERE are two topics more or less guaranteed at lunches and suppers these days — Diana and Viagra. First the Diana factor. We have touched on it several times here, but that cannot be helped. As the anniversary of her death looms discussion about her increases. I say this having died in the past month with, among others, two former Cabinet ministers, one Tory, one Labour, plus a charming old-style Polish revolutionary now living in Paris. Not the widest of company, but it makes the point.

Also, a television programme and a newspaper have rung to ask how I'll be "marking" the anniversary of her death. I have said firmly she is not a member of my family, so there is no reason why I should mark it at all. But an MP chum warns me not to underestimate the continuing Diana following. He says vivid in his memory is queuing last year in his constituency to sign the book of remembrance. It took the best part of a couple of

hours. Not because of the length of the queue but because people had arrived with pages and pages of home-made poems and tributes they proceeded to copy out in long hand. Why? And why do people still persist in morosely standing and gazing up forlornly at Kensington Palace? Two of my close friends have recently unexpectedly lost a much-loved husband. Neither is behaving in this mawkish way. So, to call any of the Diana mourning normal grief, is absurd.

● WHAT'S more, the Diana factor has meant a trying time this past fortnight for Edwina, Arthur, Maudie, Poppy, Pomer, Charlie and more because our dogs are banned from the Visitor Centre next to the Albert Memorial where the proposals for a Diana Memorial Garden can be examined and a questionnaire collected. (A learning curve for the UniTrust security men on duty who presumably are trained to apprehend bank robbers

but are now commanded to hold leads for Kensington residents.) The centre is awash with foreign visitors, especially Japanese. The idea that the tourists will eagerly fill in the questionnaire, ticking yes all over the shop, and then bugger off back to Tokyo, Oslo or wherever, is causing gloom and despair. Also, until the middle of this week, and with half the borough on holiday, no questionnaires had come through letter boxes. That they have finally done so may well be due to the tireless efforts of local residents. One has circled her robust report of an hour-long phone battle with a couple of civil servants at the Department of Culture. Or what one crusty Kensingtonite refers to as "that lot from Sport and Ballet Dancing."

● OF THE questionnaire itself another resident describes it as "trappy". A good word, for it craftily draws you into a discussion about what sort of memorial garden you prefer. Unsatisfactory if you don't want one at any price. "Why should the banker and a woman from Blue Peter (members of the memorial committee), unselected, be allowed to disrupt the lives of

two hundred thousand people?" demands Brian Sewell, the art critic. He, like everyone else, is incredulous that Treasury money, an estimated £10 million, has been earmarked for the project. And what does the Queen really think? There are several reports of an envoy for Lord Camoys discreetly seeking guidance as to whether the least ambitious proposal for the north end of the gardens would be an acceptable compromise. Wishful thinking. To NIMBY (Not In My Back Yard) we have added NOTE: Not Over There Either.

● ON VIAGRA, a gynaecologist friend tells me that in Bristol there is an excellent, if expensive-to-run, impotence clinic, NHS funded. Here men may be pumped, injected or have a splint applied to their non-performing part. Too painful for all but the very desperate and deserving. Viagra, meanwhile, is painless and relatively cheap. Except, she says, available on the NHS, it will be greedily demanded by the non-deserving, such as old men who are well past it. And the possibility of death by stroke when a frail 83-year-old is unwisely attempting sex with a young woman could send the real cost sky high.

● MY mobile phone, which I rarely use, has a message service. Since May at least 40 have been left. Most go something like this: "Sylvia I love you. Please forgive me. Please call me." Finally on Monday I answered the phone and Yippee it was him! "You're crying down the wrong receiver", I screamed. And, irritating though all this has been for the past three months, I now realise that Sylvia hasn't heard from him since she told him to sling his hook. I have. Which surely must make him much less pathetic in her eyes than if she had taken the dozens of his dopey whiney calls. And who knows, if he remembers her correct number, thanks to me, he might still be in with a chance.

'You're a danger to the public'

After failing four driving tests, Michael Gove may be forced to take John Prescott's advice after all

I felt like Hannibal Lecter being told by the probation board that life would have to mean life. "You're a nice chap Michael," said the official, avoiding my gaze, "but you're a danger to the public."

As he handed over the sheet of paper which confirmed that I was still a potential killer, I could only reflect on how much money I had spent to buy freedom and how little good it had done me. I still did not have a driving licence. I have a degree, a mortgage, a pension, wine club membership and am developing a curious interest in golf. I am practically middle-aged. But I still cannot drive. People just over half my age can fling Ferraris down motorways while I still queue for the No.52 on my way to work.

I take some consolation from the fact that, as an urban professional who travels everywhere by bus and train, I am a hero to John Prescott. But before I accept the order of Blair First Class for services to public transport, I feel I should point out that I am a living reproach to the Deputy Prime Minister's strategy.

Prescott hopes, by using road-pricing, fuel taxes and parking levies, to make driving so expensive that people will abandon their cars. But I am evidence that people will endure huge costs for the freedom the car can bring.

Even although I have no car, I have spent thousands of pounds trying to qualify to drive one. So desperate am I to drive, so central is it to my ebbing masculinity, that money is no object. The mobility and dignity I can at last aspire to are worth any number of lessons at £18 a throw.

I have lost count of the number of hours I have spent behind the wheel of a driving-school car listening to the now-familiar succession of crunching gears from the vehicle, grinding teeth from the instructor and screaming terror from mothers snatching prams out of my path.

I have tried to learn to drive in Aberdeen, Oxford and London. I have taken lessons from my father, independent instructors, the Automobile Association and the British School of Motoring. I have tried Fiestas, Fiats and Ford Escorts. I have taken four driving tests. And at the end of the fourth I registered more black marks than at the end of the first.

When I sat my fourth test earlier this month my driving instructor was confident that I was capable of passing with ease. Such professed confidence in my ability sat uncomfortably with his posture during our lessons. When turning to the right his whole body would clench and sweat would break out across his brow. My

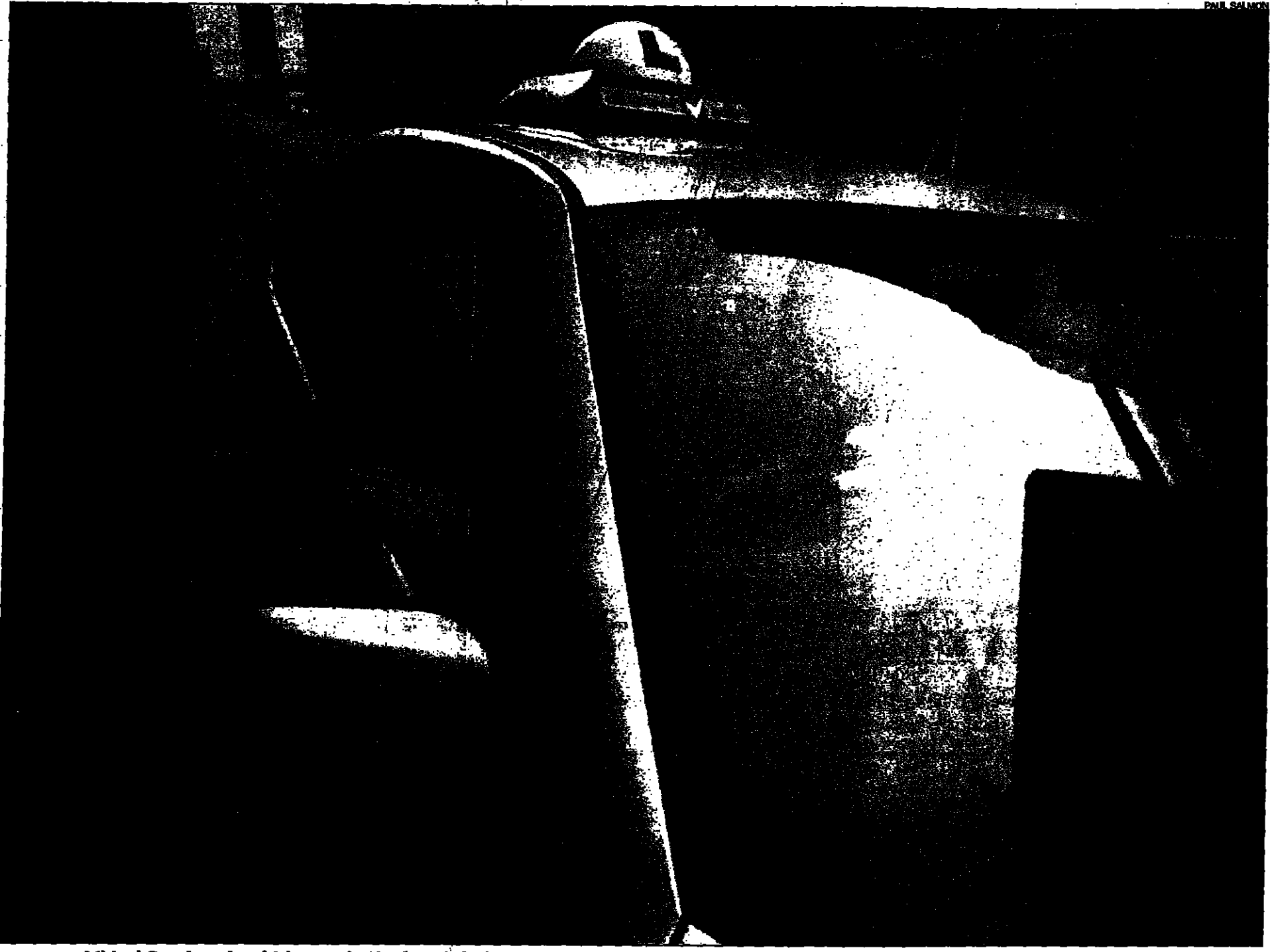
approach to roundabouts drew a low groan from somewhere deep in his body and the drops of perspiration would become rivulets. At the end of every lesson the smell of fear hung about him with all the pungent intensity of a foetid Flanders trench.

I was, however, prepared to believe his kind words rather than accept the evidence of his quaking frame — to the great regret of my examiner.

As I was led to the car before the test, my examiner asked for photographic identification. After inspecting my press card he inquired which paper I worked for. When I told him it was *The Times*, a smile creased his lips. "My paper," he grinned indulgently. It was the last time he was to smile for 30 minutes.

In the car I was invited to drive off at my leisure. I clearly took the examiner too much at his word for after sitting stock still, for minutes while I waited for all other traffic to disappear, he pointed out that there were several manoeuvres to go and already 10 per cent of the test time had gone.

After moving smoothly from first to fourth and then into cruising second via third, we were off. My foot's relationship with the clutch was a bit like Richard Burton's with Elizabeth Taylor — several brief stretches of intimacy punctuated by longer periods when we were distressingly out of contact. As we proceeded along the quiet Isleworth roads in a steady second gear, the instructor relaxed a little, only to assume a perplexed air



Michael Gove has taken driving tests in Aberdeen, Oxford and London but at the end of his fourth test he registered more black marks than he did at the first

when I stopped for 30 seconds at every roundabout, irrespective of the presence of any other traffic, as though I were a dog pausing at every tree.

Some sixth sense, and the gentle drum of the examiner's fingers on his clipboard, told me I was not performing quite up to scratch. I feared I was being too cautious and resolved to exhibit greater dash.

Invited to turn left at the next turning, I moved decisively to indicate, taking care to check my mirror only seconds after signalling. "I said left," the examiner whispered hoarsely as I recognised that the wrong side of the car was lit up. Now, so was my face.

After smartly resignalling I swung the car into some incoming traffic, then swung it back out of the way, before positioning the vehicle perfectly for a left turn by straddling the lines down the middle of the road. Pausing only to acknowledge that there was a stream of traffic bearing down from the right, I thought I should display the necessary confidence at the wheel to nip smartly on to the main road before them. I managed to tuck myself into the road before the oncoming traffic but from the rear-view mirror I could detect the cars behind me seeming to slow down dramatically and draw much closer together while the lead driver's expression turned deep red.

Although I felt I had shown both reserve and resource on the roads, the examiner took a different view. Seldom, it seemed, had he seen such a display of paralytically dangerous fear and then wild recklessness. The manner in which caution was instantly succeeded by careless abandon was, it appeared, literally spastic.

Arriving back at the test centre, I was handed my piece of paper. I had failed on use of the brakes, clutch, gears, steering, signalling and mirror. I had failed on driving at an appropriate speed, showed excessive hesitation and failed to reverse park properly.

As I was driven back to Central London by my instructor, I contemplated my future. Why couldn't I master this basic task? I had been among the last in my class at school to be able to tie my own shoe laces, but I had played the tuba in the school orchestra and was capable of two-finger typing. My powers of co-ordination, although behind those of most higher primates, were not yet so bad as to require medical correction.

I consoled myself by thinking that many of my most brilliant colleagues could not drive. The great Kingsley Amis once remarked that he had learnt to drink just before he was allowed to learn to drive and, recognising the two should not mix, had resolved to stick to the former. Perhaps I should do the same.

I have now found another instructor, a woman, after years of failure with men, who has helped friends of mine to pass who were apparently even more hopeless cases than myself. She may be the one who can make a useful citizen out of a potential killer, the special agent Clarice Stirling to my Hannibal Lecter. But I suspect that, far from being behind the wheel, I may instead be spending the rest of my adult life behind bars. Cheers!

A test of character

■ A DRIVING test does not test your ability to drive; it tests your unconscious attitude to authority, writes Oliver James, a clinical psychologist.

Reckless drivers fall into two groups. The People Pleasers are often highly intelligent and socially skilled but the test brings out all their concealed loathing for authority. They have complied with these demands dutifully and have carried on doing so, but the driving test is a people-please too far. The rage comes out in a silly error.

By contrast, The Rebels have always consciously found authority irksome and express their anger openly. They cannot force themselves to kow-tow sufficiently to give a convincing performance of obedience throughout the whole test. They want to pass but they also want to show their defiance.



Michael Gove with his latest instructor, Heather Hunwick

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YAMAHA SPECIALIST



Cakes, bread and icing creations adorn Dunn's window

What a way to earn a crust

Composer John Harle always gets his daily bread from Dunn's. He sings its praises to Judy Goodkin

The truth is out. John Harle, saxophonist and composer of *Angel Magick*, the opera specially commissioned and performed this week for *The Proms*, is not at all partial to angel cake.

my favourite shop

"I'm not a cake man at all," he declares innocently. Disdaining confectionery is hardly a capital crime, but spoken in Dunn's of Crouch End, in north London, where he moved three years ago, it is certainly tantamount to heresy. The bakery, with its two wide windows that dominate The Broadway, is a paean to the art of baking. Five-tier wedding cakes, classic gingerbread folk, World Cup cupcakes and Disney characters immortalised in icing are some of the prodigious output to emerge from ovens that have blazed here in an unbroken chain since 1827. But while he is no fan of fancy gâteau, the composer is quite clearly a dedicated bread man. There is no disguising his enthusiasm for the "old-fashioned seeded bloomers" nor his penchant for the thick sandwiches which have become a vital part of his life. "In my two-pronged existence I am either away performing or at home writing," he says. "And when I am home, breaking for a snack from

Dunn's becomes a high point in the day." When Mr Harle buys his loaf, which has been scored by hand with a pointed blade and slipped on a paddle through the old oven doors, he is buying more than sustenance. He is buying tradition. Dunn's proprietor Christopher Freeman, is a fourth-generation master baker and his family have occupied these premises since the war. "Dunn's represents a sort of benevolence," says Mr Harle admiringly. "It feeds the area and it fights for the area, standing up for the community as it always used to be, rather than the way it is becoming - which is too chic." Mr Harle says the area, which has useful stores selling everyday items as well as buzzing pavement cafes, has been important in grounding

him - and never more so than during the writing of *Angel Magick*. The opera is his first in a lifetime of composing that encompasses 20 concert works, 17 solo albums and more than 40 film and television projects, including the BBC's *Defence of the Realm* and *Silent Witness II and III*. He has collaborated with composers as diverse as Harrison Birtwistle and Paul McCartney; his 1996 composition *Terror and Magnificence* won three Grammy nominations. Although Mr Harle first picked up a saxophone at school, it was during his time with the Band of the Coldstream Guards that he perfected his technique. "After school I simply answered an advertisement saying 'Soloist required for the Guards'. The army is not all bugles and trumpets," he adds

indignantly. "In fact, it was quite a glamorous life then, as well as a good way of coming to London, earning a bit of money and becoming technically proficient. By the time I reached the Royal College of Music at 20, I had, been playing solidly for two years." Although his pieces are known for their "catholicity of taste", *Angel Magick* is a work that has dark and primitive associations, focusing on the life of medieval astrologer and alchemist John Dee. "Like Doctor Faustus, Dee believed that he could discover universal truth by talking to the angels," Mr Harle explains. "Although his intentions were good - to unite Protestants and Catholics at a time of great religious division - he made one fatal error. He tried to bypass the Pope: the only man with a direct Batphone to God." Dabbling in Dee's journals - "1,000 pages recording conversations with angels" scrawled in notebooks dotted with numbers, signs and

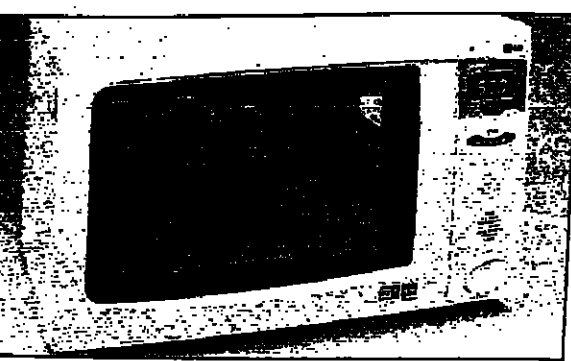
alchemical symbols - has led Harle down dangerous pathways. In the course of his research, he says, he has "started to peel back layers of mystery and lift those veils of secrecy that shroud us from the spirit world and keep us safely tucked inside our own mortality." "Music and magic are similar in many ways," he says. "I've always seen music as an alchemical process, an attempt to create a thing of beauty out of base metal, manipulating natural forces to a desired end." Although he talks of spirituality and alchemy with ease, there is no danger of John Harle drifting too far into unreal worlds. He knows that, after sitting alone for hours in his own ivory tower, he will always wander down Crouch Hill to Dunn's, where its salt-of-the-earth proprietor continues to provide man with one of his most basic needs: bread.

• Dunn's, 6 The Broadway, Crouch End, London N5 (0181-340 1614). Open 7am to 6pm, Monday to Saturday.

When I'm writing, a snack from Dunn's is a high point in the day

Dunn's bakery, run by master baker Christopher Freeman, is like a paean to the art of bread says composer John Harle

GADGETS



The talking microwave, a friend in the kitchen

"G'DAY sport! Throw another shrimp in the micro." It is not actually what the LG Electronics Talking Microwave oven says, but that is certainly the impression you get.

The oven's voice is that of an Australian male. When you plug it in, he says: "I am a LG Talking Microwave. When you press a button, I will help you by telling you what you have pressed... please try me."

There the introductory message was clearly meant to end, but instead we hear two men in the background. One mutters a question, the other responds: "Ssshhh!"

Intended for the partially-sighted, it speaks cooking times, announces when cooking is complete and records reminder messages.

LG's MS-283TD model is in all other ways a regular 900W microwave oven.

Much more inventive might be a microwave which declares that the

croissants are burnt or warns the Friday night drunk that the steak and kidney pie being heated is actually a tortoise.

NOISIER still is the Air Guitar T-Shirt. Made of cotton, it carries a print of an electric guitar. When you hit the strings, a hidden-speaker strikes up with twangy riffs.

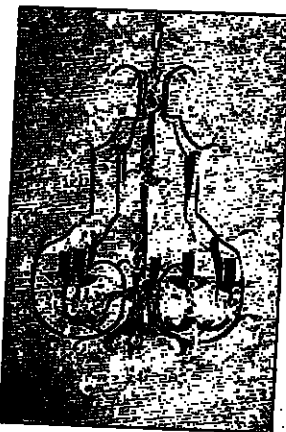
The strings hide circuits that, when connected by passing fingertips, activate sound samples. The sound pack is connected with press-studs so the shirt can be washed. The shirt is funny the first time you wear it, so-so the second, but by the third it is pretty tiresome.

TIM WAPSHOTT

• Talking Microwave Oven, £159.99, from LG Electronics (01753 500470). Air Guitar T-Shirt, £19.95, from The Gadget Shop (01482 860860).

SHOPPING

Bhs has excelled itself with its new lighting collection, due in August, which ranges from a whimsical twisted, beaded hanging shade at £35, to the kind of distressed metal and crystal chandelier you will see in every interiors magazine, though these are from £250. Call 0171-262 3288 for nearest branch.



Light ideas from Bhs

Place, London SW3 (0171-376 4525).

Rococo chocolates have translated this summer's obsession with everything fresh and herby into the hippest flavours imaginable. The sophisticated chocolate is tucked into basil, rosemary or chilli-pepper dark chocolate bars - once tasted, nothing else will do. By mail order, Rococo, 321 King's Road, London SW3 (0171-352 5857).

Harvey Nichols answers every shoe-fetishist's dream next week by opening a dedicated designer shoe department on its first floor. Top names include Patrick Cox and Robert Clergerie, Emma Hope and Jimmy Choo as well as labels such as Miu Miu and DKNY. Harvey Nichols, 105-129 Knightsbridge, London SW1 (0171-235 5000).

The Hulton Getty Picture Gallery's archive collection of black and white photographs is the last word in cool for minimalist walls. They have a wide variety of everything from Fifties' New York skyscrapers to pre-war English seaside scenes, or will search out an image for £30. Visit the gallery at 3 Jubilee

Mulberry Hall in York is known for its brilliant selection of crystal and fine china. They now have a new Dining Warehouse aimed at a younger audience where you will find chic kitchen gadgets from Gaggia and Authentic, Zesty Designers' Guild liners and Emma Bridgewater's pretty china. Mulberry Hall, Stonegate, York (01904 620736).

UPDATE: SCP, one of London's top venues for contemporary furniture, has expanded with a new floor of Matthew Hilton and Terence Woodgate-designed furniture at 135-139 Curtain Road, London EC2 (0171-739 1869). Daisy & Tom, Chelsea's glorious toy shop, celebrates its birthday next Saturday, at 81 King's Road, London SW3 (0171-349 0667).

JUDITH WILSON

Head strong

CRASH HELMETS

While safety should triumph over vanity, a number of style-conscious pedalers feel that they look ridiculous in cycling helmets. For those in question, it's like being a child again. Your mum's telling you to wear that ridiculous bulbous plastic-coated helmet and, while you know she's right, all you can think is that you don't look cool and the other kids are going to tease you. The British Medical Association cannot agree on whether making helmets compulsory for cyclists is a good idea. In Australia, since legislation, there has been a 63 per cent decrease in cycle accident-related head injuries, but a considerable drop in the number of cyclists. Apparently the unpopularity of helmets could be responsible for taking people off their healthy bikes. Vanity is pointless when it comes to falling from a bicycle at speed. British cyclist Chris Boardman, who crashed out of this year's Tour

de France, believes that his helmet, a Giro, definitely prevented a more serious injury and could have saved his life. All good helmets will have one of the following standards: BS (British standard), ANSI (the official US standard), AS (Australian standard), and SNELL, a particularly high American standard developed to promote helmet safety. The British Cycling Federation believes that any helmet with one of these standards will be effective. The more you pay the more you get from advanced ventilation and added comfort. Some manufacturers will replace their helmets if they are damaged in a crash. Looks aside, make sure it fits. Helmets should be fastened properly. Even the most expensive and stylish of helmets is useless if it falls off when you do.

JOE WARWICK



ABOVE: In fluoro green, the Giro "Boreas" cycling helmet, £124.99, weighs 290g and has 22 ventilation holes. Available from F. W. Evans (0181-877 1578; 0181-385 3385 for stockists)



ABOVE: Met have blue "Buddy" cycling helmets, £19.95, for children decorated with colourful rockets, UFO's and planes. It weighs 240g and has six ventilation holes. Available from Bikefix (0171-405 1218)



LEFT: The top-of-the-range cycling helmet from Rudy Project is the "Racing Red", £59.99. In racing red, it weighs 250g and has eight ventilation holes. An anti-fog visor with UV400 protection, clips on to the front of the helmet. Available from Harrods (0171-730 1234)



LEFT: The white Met "Road Runner", £29.99, weighs 280g and has nine ventilation holes. Available from Bikefix (as before)



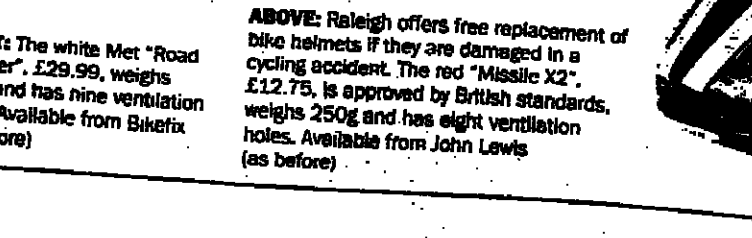
LEFT: The "Air Banshee" from Specialized in red and white, £69.99, weighs 183g and has a peak for shading your eyes and 17 ventilation holes. Available from South Bank Bicycles (0171-622 3069; 01372 740084 for stockists)



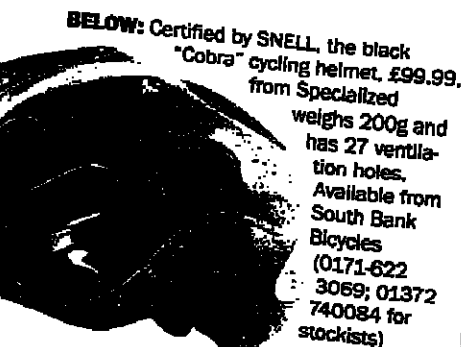
ABOVE: Giro's forest green "Riviera" cycling helmet, £34.99, weighs 365g and has 13 ventilation holes. Available from Bikefix (as before)



ABOVE: The silver "Max" helmet, £17.50, by Raleigh is approved by British standards, weighs 240g and has ten ventilation holes. Available from John Lewis (0171-828 1000)



ABOVE: Raleigh offers free replacement of bike helmets if they are damaged in a cycling accident. The red "Missile X2", £12.75, is approved by British standards, weighs 250g and has eight ventilation holes. Available from John Lewis (as before)



BELOW: Certified by SNELL, the black "Cobra" cycling helmet, £99.99, from Specialized weighs 200g and has 27 ventilation holes. Available from South Bank Bicycles (0171-622 3069; 01372 740084 for stockists)

Research by Mary Ann Percy Photographs by Des Jensen

LEFT: In reflective white with a black peak, the "Giro" helmet by Giro, £69.99, weighs 370g and has 23 ventilation holes. Available from F. W. Evans (as before)

سكوا من الأصيل

Heathrow · Gatw

Undercover queen of the jungle



Women no longer have to chant: "I must, I must improve my bust", or wear nasty padded things with wire. Underwear manufacturers are doing the bust-improving for them. With some of the top underwear designers using space-age fabrics, at last we can be hugged, moulded, lifted and curved without feeling hemmed in.



It is not just sleek sports-women who are contending on to the carefree styles. Celebrities, too, are taking to soft, natural fibres and underwear with a sporty feel. Sadie Frost, actress and wife of Jude Law, insists that she chooses comfort over glamour. Zoe Ball has function in mind when shopping for underwear and always insists hers are black so as to enhance her figure. Sara Cox, *Loaded* boys' favourite, says: "Comfort is paramount." Michelle Collins, the *Eastenders* actress, who occasionally shows off her bra in public, admits: "Comfort is more important than glamour. I find G-strings most comfortable. They are hygienic and sexy."

The flimsy bra fascism of the Eighties which had us rearranging our straps every time we ran for the bus has been defeated. Active Sportswear (comfortable, stretchy, sporty bras, briefs, bodices and vests) has arrived and sensible women have triumphed. Whereas sports bras used to make you look like Hattie Jacques's wet-nurse sister or brought back memories of your PE teacher's greying netball harness, the new ranges are sleek, sexy and almost glamorous. The size of the pants may look like those worn by older women or by Maureen O'Sullivan in the 1930s version of *Tarzan*, but the cut is distinctly Nineties and made of high-tech fabrics that stretch and sculpt the body while cosseting it. According to the latest research, conducted by Elle

THREE OF A KIND: BRIEFS

White, £8.50, Sloggi (01793 720232); Black, £6, Bhs (0171-262 3288); Grey, £8, Knickerbox (0171-284 1744)

Active to coincide with its new range of underwear launched this week. 60 per cent of women buy undies to please themselves, 50 per cent say that comfort comes before glamour and 75 per cent want their underwear to be functional rather than pleasurable. Gossard has two options: the Ultrabra Smooth and Ultrabra Light. Although the Smooth is tagged a "cleavage product", it is beautifully moulded and almost invisible under clothes, and Light provides comfort in cotton-rich lace and ribbed Tactel. Sue Mahey at La Perla says the underwear trend is heading towards simpler styles, following French Connection, Knickerbox and Calvin Klein in providing large, panty-line-free undies and comfortable, supportive tops. Only Agent Provocateur remains sceptical. "We don't do practical, we do beautiful and sexy," says Gina Gibbons, manageress of the London store.

ALEX O'CONNELL



Top: White bra, £39.50 and briefs, £19, by Hanro (0171-245 6231)
Top left: Silver bra, £20, and briefs, £11, by Gossard (01525 85122)
Top left below: White vest, £22, and shorts, £16, by Elle (0171-436 0222)
Left: Dark olive-green bra, £96, and shorts, £61, from the Cult range by La Perla (0171-436 5864)
Above: Black bandeau top, £10, and G-string, £8, by Marks & Spencer (0171-935 4422)
Photographs by CLIVE ARROWSMITH
Styling by Rachel Fanconi
Hair by Raphael Sally
Make-up by Jochen Fuchs for Michaeljohn Management using Christian Dior
Model: Alex Leigh
Shot on location at Greenery film and TV hire (0181-893 8992)
Props and location by Neil Cunningham at Plush

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*Spirits compared to national UK high street prices, this being the average of prices from a variety of a number of high street stores. Details of these stores and individual prices are available in the Daily and Ten Free shop. Offers do not apply on products for which no price comparison is displayed. Daily and Ten Free shopping is exclusively for security reasons. Daily and Ten Free allowances depend upon fuel destination. Fiscal products are available at all terminals. Prices correct at time of going to press.

Drink



Jane MacQuitty

Don't believe the hype in the claret charade. The 1997 bordeaux is not as good as the merchants tell us

Over-hyped and over-priced, the case for buying the 1997 claret vintage, en primeur, is non-existent. Yet, having waded through dozens of British wine merchants' current 1997 bordeaux offers, the unsuspecting drinker would have little idea of the claret charade being performed for their benefit.

The truth is that 1997 red bordeaux is a pleasant, light, easy-going year with the sort of short, often stunted fruit and style that even passionate claret drinkers will knock back early, if at all, before moving on to the big boys such as the superb, slowly-maturing 1995 and 1996 vintages.

And yet the '97 first growths are about £90 a bottle and even the lesser cru classé wines could cost as much as £20-£30 a throw.

with a bud burst earlier than the legendary 1947 vintage and the long Indian summer in September and October that literally saved the vintage, is odd.

In between lay some of the worst weather conditions Bordeaux has seen in a quarter of a century. Rainy weather interrupted and delayed the flowering for weeks, while tropical storms, warm weather and rot-inducing humidity stopped and started the grapes.

Indeed, without the autumnal heatwave, the 1997 vintage would have been a disaster. As it was, Bordeaux produced the biggest appellation contrôlée harvest on record. The Moueix family of Pétus fame estimated that their '97s cost an extra 12,000 man hours to control and produce.

By the time the world's wine

merchants and commentators were ready to preview and sell the '97s, the Bordelais believed their own hype. Very few proprietors cautioned calm and soon price rises of 20 per cent on those asked for the far superior 1996 vintage were being demanded across the board with 30 per cent and 40 per cent not unknown.

Top St Julie, Léoville-Barton, were one of the few to show restraint, launching their '97 at the same price as their '96.

Of the dozens of '97s I have tasted, it is clear that the right bank, merlot-dominated communes of St Emilion and Pomerol made better wines than the left and probably better wines than the year before.

You can expect young, elegant fleshy fruit here with light, easy, recalcitrant character. The best left bank communes such as St Julien and Pauillac made equally light, pleasant, perfumed claret with juicy plum and cherry-like fruit to the fore.

If quality had anything to do with prices in Bordeaux, you might expect to pay 30 to 40 per cent less than the previous two splendid vintages of '95 and '96. Only quality doesn't.

My advice if you want to buy fine young claret is to go for the relaunched '95s and '96s on offer at the merchants below. You will have plenty of time to pick up the '97s in years to come, at more sensible prices.

Given the backdrop, Bordeaux's 1997 brouhaha was bound to start early. It did. On August 18, first growth Château Haut Brion started picking their '97 white crop, true, one of the earliest harvests on record, but before they had vinified any wine, they declared the year: "Golden, legendary and historic." Other Bordelais followed, claiming 1997 a "great vintage," the last in the superb trilogy of '95, '96 and '97 and even comparing this trio with the superb '88, '89 and '90 run.

How the Bordelais could have forgotten the bizarre weather conditions between the trumpeted precocious start

of the skin, which should be kept on it for cooking, and again look for slime.

■ Flat fish: Dover sole, brill, flounder, plaice, halibut, turbot, etc. The best time to cook a flat fish is when it is relaxed, two to three hours after it has been caught.

■ Round fish: Everything else. The best time to cook a round fish is while it is in rigor mortis. (Some argue that it should be cooked immediately after it comes out of rigor.) It must be cooked as fresh as possible.

More great wine is made here per acre than anywhere else in the world and there are more acres of great vineyards here, 270,000 at the last count, than anywhere else too.

Château owners, courtiers and merchants have a vested interest in persuading us that this is yet another vintage of the century. Fuelling their fires and encouraging spiralling prices has been the strong bull market for fine wine, not just with traditional markets, but with new customers in the Far East, though their interest has waned recently. With little wine in their cellars to sell, the Bordelais were ripe for a vintage to punt.

● **Berry Bros and Rudd** (0171-396 9600), **Farr Vintners** (0171-821 3000), **Wine Society** (01438 74117), **Lay & Wheeler** (01206 76446), **Laytons** (0171-385 4567), **Goedhuis & Company** (0171-793 7900).

STAR BUYS

1995 Aigle Blanc Vouvray, Le Clos Baudouin, Prince Poniatowski, Majestic, £4.99, special parcel

1997 Australian Shiraz Ruby Cabernet, Thomas Hardy and Sons, Safeway, down 50p to £3.49

By rights this textbook vouvray from a very good Loire vintage should be on sale for at least £2 more. But like many rich, off-dry whites, vouvray continues to be hard to sell.

More's the pity. Still, Loire fans will revel in this single vineyard vouvray's stunning, smoky, mineraly fruit with steely yet juicy waxy green apple flavours that this appellation is renowned for, and happily pocket the change.

BEST OF THE REST

The annual Old Brewery sale at Yapp Bros of Mere, Wiltshire (01747 580423), makes a great day out. There's a £4-per-case collection allowance on any of the non-discounted wines on Yapp's list, and you can take your pick from 25 discounted wines, plus many bin-end bottles. My white summer wine goes to 24 halves of André Volant's 1996 Clos les Perriers (£1.02), along with one of the best Alsace muscats, Charles Schleret's 1995 (£1.05).



Fish heads on sale at Billingsgate Fish Market on the Isle of Dogs; fishmongers believe Britain lags behind its European counterparts when it comes to buying and cooking fresh fish

There is nothing fishy about this business

Joe Warwick goes in search of the perfect fish — and fishmonger

Though we are a small island surrounded by rich fishing waters with (despite the constant misanthropic rumblings to the contrary) an enviable transport system, many of us experience seafood almost exclusively through Captain Birds Eye, prawn cocktail sandwiches and the chippy.

As in other areas of food and drink retail, the supermarkets are installing specialist fish counters in their stores, thereby widening the nation's access to the treasures of the seas. But, when it comes to purchasing fresh fish, many consumers are uninformed and understandably nervous.

Even if you are lucky enough to live within swimming distance of a quality fishmonger, the majority of us do not know what to look for. How do you know if fish is fresh? How long should you keep it for? Are there different rules for different fish? How should it smell?

In a quest to answer these questions, and obviously because I enjoy getting up at 4am, I make my way to Billingsgate market, Britain's largest inland fish market, which through its merchants sells an average 35,000 tonnes of seafood every year.

It was moved in 1982 from the historic City site in Lower Thames Street that it officially occupied since 1699, when an

Act of Parliament declared it "a free and open market for all sorts of fish whatsoever". It now occupies a site in the Docklands not far from City airport. The market is served by almost every port in the UK from Aberdeen to Penzance.

Although unloading of the fish is still called "shoring in", today the fish arrive by road, transported from the coasts, or in case of imported fish, via air-freight or ferry.

Inside, white coat-clad porters with overlaid trolleys steam up and down this vast temple of fish mongery. Fresh and frozen, dead and still moving, whole and cut to pieces, with scales and with shells — it's all here. There are king-sized crabs, vicious-looking lobsters and whole sharks. There are fish from local waters and from seas as far flung as Australia and Africa, with about 22 per cent of sales comprising of imported fish.

Full of characters as varied and colourful as the scaly and shelled wares they are selling, Billingsgate, like all great markets, has an atmosphere and an aroma all of its own. The smell is not as overwhelming as you would imagine. It is salty and unexpectedly invigorating, as it would need to be if you are working these hours, though not recommended for anyone who has had a few drinks the night before.

Tony Allan, who I am here



Fresh fish convert Joe Warwick tucks into his bass

to meet, had. He was out watching the football the night before. He has had a couple of hours sleep and, after missing his first alarm call, gets here at a tardy 5am. He usually rises at 3am and is in the market at 4am Monday to Friday.

A chef originally, he had the idea to set up Cutty's Catering when the quality of fish that he found in the London restaurants where he worked was simply not good enough. "My last job cooking was as head chef in a City fish restaurant in 1984. We are 60 miles from the sea in London and I couldn't believe the crap that was coming through the door from the suppliers," he explains.

"I complained so much that unfortunately, or fortunately now, I was sacked." He started going down to the coast to places such as Brighton and Hastings and started selling fish to the restaurant industry. That was 1985. He estimates that he supplies 80 per cent of acooled London restaurants. He mostly delivers within the M25 area, but his fish reach establishments such as Michel Roux's Waterside Inn in Berkshire. He deals with top chefs, the pickiest of customers, and if anyone knows what to look for in a fish, it should be him.

While the cliché that a cook is only as good as his supplier holds true, Mr Allan believes that in the case of seafood, though our chefs can compete with the best of their continental cousins in terms of preparing and cooking fish, they are doing so against the grain of a culture that does not understand the importance of fresh quality fish in the same way that the French, Spanish and Italians do.

For the future he believes that "young people are the biggest problem. If you are going to get them eating and buying fish again, you've got to educate them".

In need of some guidance myself, I listen, as he tells me what to look and smell for. "The smell of a fresh fish is really appetising," he explains, "and look for brightness in the eyes." I ask him to elaborate.

FISH: WHAT TO LOOK FOR

- **Smell:** It should be pleasant, not acrid.
- **Eyes:** They should be bright.
- **Gills:** They should be bright red and full of blood and not brown and oxidised.
- **Feel:** Fresh clear slime shows the quality.
- **Fillets:** When you buy fish off the bone you are looking for a slightly translucent colour on the flesh. It should not be soaked in water, look for the brightness

of the skin, which should be kept on it for cooking, and again look for slime.

■ **Flat fish:** Dover sole, brill, flounder, plaice, halibut, turbot, etc. The best time to cook a flat fish is when it is relaxed, two to three hours after it has been caught.

■ **Round fish:** Everything else. The best time to cook a round fish is while it is in rigor mortis. (Some argue that it should be cooked immediately after it comes out of rigor.) It must be cooked as fresh as possible.

HENRY HARRIS'S CHEAT OF THE WEEK

THE MOMENT we get some sunshine, it seems every restaurant goes into fashionable Mediterranean mode. We have endured months of dark days and starchy food, and when the contrast of sunshine arrives we all perk up.

Continuous sunshine in the southern states of Italy and Sicily has at least ensured the presence of enough sunshine to grow the summer favourites such as artichokes and asparagus, broad beans and peas. One has to pay a premium for them, but the chance to eat a bowl of fresh broad beans drizzled with some good olive oil is, for me, irresistible; and unlike the air-freighted alternatives, they have real flavour.

My cheat this week will enable you

to put a starter on the table with only ten minutes' preparation and five minutes of cooking/assembly.

I first came across this dish in California after a day in the kitchens of the famous Cez Panisse in Berkeley. It was wilted greens rolled up in prosciutto and simply served on a plate — wonderful using a combination of rocket, turnip tops and other greens. Sadly, in this country if you ask the greengrocer for some "greens", you will be sold "spring greens", which are completely different. The cheat here is to use some good pricked salad containing at least some rocket and watercress. I have seen some

bags labelled Californian-style salad which works very well.

Serves 4

1 tsp Dijon mustard

8 tsp red wine vinegar

6 tsp olive oil

4 small shallots, finely chopped

2 x 100g approximately bags of salad

8 slices prosciutto San Daniele or parma

4 tsp grated pecorino

8 tsp good extra virgin olive oil

1 clove of garlic, crushed

Juice of one lemon

Combine the mustard and vinegar with a seasoning of salt and pepper, and then whisk in the olive oil. In a

wide shallow saucpan, pour in the vinaigrette and the shallots and apply heat. When the vinaigrette starts to bubble, throw in the salad and stir it around with a large spoon until it starts to collapse. Take care not to let it cook down completely. Place the eight slices of prosciutto on a flat surface and place an eighth of the salad on each slice, then roll each one up loosely to resemble a cannelloni. Put two on each plate. Then place the pecorino in a bowl with the garlic and a milling of black pepper and stir in the extra virgin olive oil and lemon juice. Spoon this instant dressing over the prosciutto rolls and serve immediately.

● **Henry Harris is head chef at the Fifth Floor, Harvey Nichols, London.**

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"The one the top chefs are because it makes it all so easy"

THE DRINKS THAT TIME FORGOT

Slivovitz

Certain drinks can have thoroughly predictable effects on the collective esprit de corps. Lager beer, I understand, has been shown to fuel aggressive debates between supporters of rival football teams, yet nobody feels the urge to invade Poland on a belly full of wine.

When reports of plots and internecine paranoia first filtered out of the former Yugoslavia, one name seemed always to be present at the trouble spots and shootouts: Slivovitz.

This, arguably, is the drink that tore a modern European state to pieces. Distilled from the pozeza plum, it has a dry, sometimes bitter flavour, and a farinaceous home following. The taste is produced by keeping the plum kernel itself in the distillation process to an impressive 40-plus ABV.

The domestic enthusiasm is a result of locals keeping all the good stuff for themselves and allowing it to mellow in wood casks to a sweet, ruby brilliance that can only really be appreciated in the sparkling Dalmatian sunshine.

The brandy began to clutter up our more adventurous drinks cabinet in the early 1960s when Marshall Tito's resorts opened up to sandal-wearers and campers.

Through genuine hospitality, bearded Chemik fellows would offer up the potent tipple to the delight of visitors, who would then feel obliged to take home a bottle or two. How during and intoxicating it must all have seemed.

Unfortunately, the export version was — and is the most appalling gut-rot. One ill-advised session back home with this could damn a nation and its people in the eyes of the west as sub-human murderers, best left to get on with it by themselves.

KATE STRONACH

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The Times Cook

We've all heard of Mrs Beeton, but a new exhibition shows her contemporary Agnes Marshall also merits recognition



Frances Bissell

It is a mystery to me why Mrs Beeton remains so much better known than Mrs Marshall, when Agnes Bertha Marshall was clearly a more important figure in her day and I would imagine a better cook. Curiously these two Victorian ladies shared the publisher, Ward Lock. Yet while Mrs Beeton's work continues to be doled out in reshaped versions, all of Mrs Marshall's archived work was lost in a fire some years ago.

Four food historians have written excellent introductory material to a facsimile edition of Mrs Marshall's *The Book of Ices*, published to coincide with a detailed exhibition of her work at Syon House in London, put together by food historian and ice-cream expert Robin Weir. It runs until the end of August.

Pewter ice-cream moulds of intricate design are on display, as well as elaborate jelly moulds. One of my favourites is simple and clever — a mould for an individual handed cup, made of ice, in which to serve a single portion of ice-cream.

This eminent Victorian not only wrote cookery books and contributed to a weekly journal called *The Table*, she also ran a cookery school, headed an employment agency for domestic staff, and developed a range of kitchen equipment which she sold in a handsome shop attached to the school in Mortimer Street, London.

To promote her books Mrs Marshall went on tour, signing books and giving cookery demonstrations all over the country. These were a sell-out. And all this at a time when well brought-up Victorian women

seldom ventured outside the home. Mrs Marshall's lasting contribution to the way we eat today was to develop the ice-cream machine for the home, as well as introducing ice-cream making techniques and recipes for the domestic cook. She almost certainly created the first edible ice-cream cone, which she described as a cornet made of a crisp wafer biscuit, rolled while still warm around a horn mould.

The top would be filled with ice-cream, levelled off, and all the corners arranged decoratively to be served as dessert. One recipe here is for a delectable combination of apple ice-cream and ginger sorbet. I have been a Mrs Marshall fan ever since I found a copy of her *Every Day Cookery* in a second-hand book shop. Her writing is concise, her recipes and instructions unambiguous and deserving of a new readership.

Fortunately, this is now possible. Her recipes are adventurous and appealing, including cranberry ice-cream, a delicate white coffee ice-cream in which roasted whole beans are infused in the cream, quince ice-cream using quince jelly or jam, and cucumber ice-cream. And her savoury ices are quite extraordinary — for example, an iced curry soufflé with prawns.

My recipes below are for an elegant, yet simple luncheon, with dessert suggestions inspired by Mrs Marshall's ices. The flavours and ingredients are those of summer: peas, mint, local lamb, samphire and home-grown raspberries. If you cannot get samphire — sometimes available from fishmongers in the summer — replace it with green beans; they will need slightly longer cooking than I have recommended for the samphire.

- 1tbsp white wine vinegar
- 1tsp clear honey
- 500g peas, shelled weight
- 1 large or 2 smaller fennel bulbs

Strip the mint leaves and put them in a mortar with the salt. Grind to a paste and gradually add the rest of the vinaigrette ingredients, including the honey. Boil the peas for 2 minutes. Drain and refresh under cold water. Put in a bowl with the dressing. Trim the fennel and slice into thin segments. Add to the bowl and stir gently so that all ingredients are well coated before serving.

Note: When buying fennel, choose a nicely rounded bulb, the female rather than the flatter male,

which has far less flavour and not such a good texture. Scrubbed and boiled new potatoes also make a good addition to the salad.

Poached leg of lamb with onion sauce and samphire

- (Serves 6)
- 2kg whole leg of lamb
- 2 bay leaves
- 2 onions, peeled and stuck with half a dozen cloves
- Parsley stalks
- 1 carrot, peeled and sliced
- 1 small turnip, peeled and sliced
- 1 leek, sliced and rinsed
- 1 celery stalk, trimmed and sliced

- Salt
- Pepper
- 500g samphire, trimmed, picked over and thoroughly rinsed
- 2 slices bread, crusts removed
- Double cream — optional

Trim and tie the leg of lamb to hold its shape. Fill a large saucepan or fish kettle with enough water to cover the lamb. Test it first.

Put in the seasonings, but not yet the lamb. Bring to the boil, put in the lamb, and when the water comes back to the boil, turn down the heat as low as possible and poach for 15-18 minutes per 500g.

Remove the lamb from the pot

and rest in a warm place for about 15 minutes before carving.

While the meat is resting, prepare the accompaniments. To make the sauce, dip the bread in the cooking liquid, then squeeze it out. Put in a blender with the now-soft onions, having removed all but a couple of cloves. Blend until smooth, adding cooking juices or double cream until you have the consistency you prefer. Sieve, season to taste, reheat and keep warm.

Strain the cooking liquid and bring to the boil. Drop in the samphire, blanch for 30 seconds, then strain and serve with the lamb and onion sauce. If you do not add new potatoes to the pea and fennel salad, serve with the lamb.

Raspberry ice-cream (Serves 6) Note: this recipe uses uncooked eggs

- 300-400g raspberries, rinsed
- Thinly pared zest of half a lemon and half an orange
- 200g caster sugar
- 300ml milk
- 300ml single or double cream
- 8 free-range egg yolks
- 15g glucose (optional, for extra smoothness)

Gently cook the raspberries with the citrus zest and half the sugar until they collapse, about 3-4 minutes. Remove the zest and sieve the purée. Heat the milk and cream. In a bowl, beat together the eggs, remaining sugar and glucose. When warm, add a quarter of the cream mixture to the egg mixture and incorporate. When the cream

mixture boils, pour over the egg mixture, beating continuously. Sieve into a clean saucepan and cook gently until it will coat the back of a spoon. Cool, stir in the raspberry purée, then freeze in an ice-cream maker or in a box in the freezer. Stir the mixture by hand or in a food processor during freezing for a really smooth ice-cream.

Cook apricots with crushed cardamom seeds, cherries with cinnamon, gooseberries with orange zest and make them into fruit ice-creams using this recipe. Or try Mrs Marshall's banana ice-cream — blend six ripe bananas with a glass of curacao and the juice of two lemons, sieve, stir into

the basic custard, the recipe for which I give above, and freeze. Serve in cornets and arrange bouquet-fashion, or serve scoops on shortbread with fruit purée.

THE PERFECT ZABAGLIONE

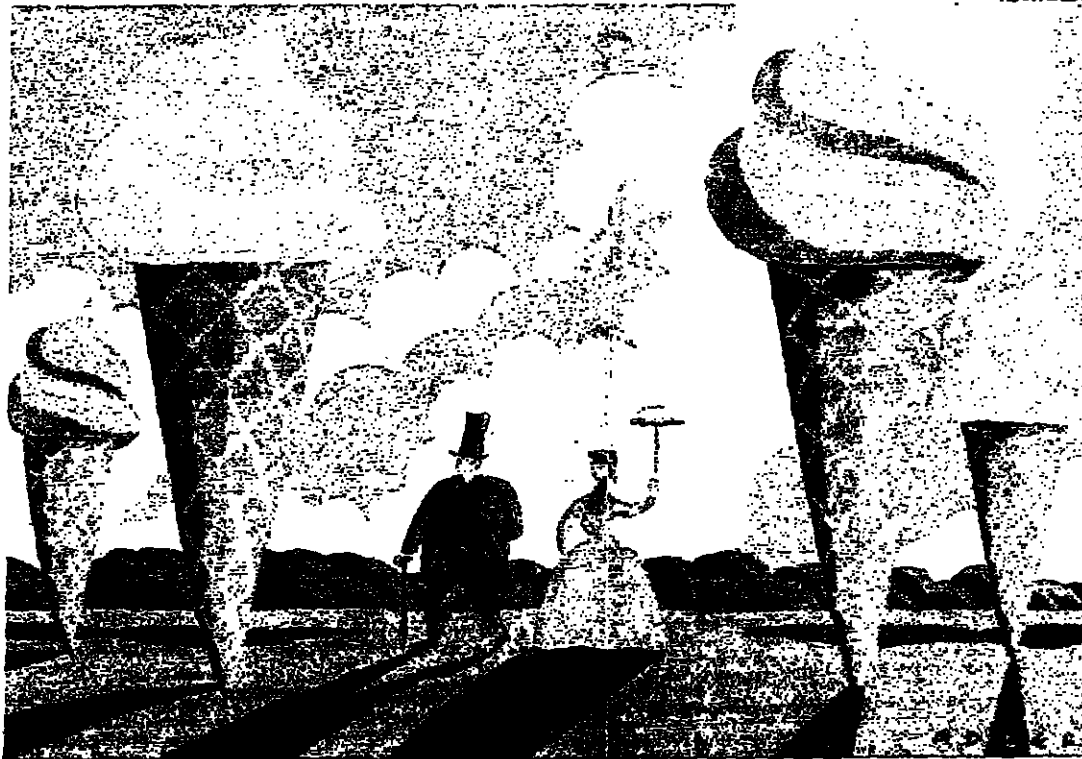
ZABAGLIONE, crêpes suzettes, steak tartare and Caesar salad were once the domain of the dashing maître d'hôtel, who would whisk up this little number at your table. You can do just as well in your kitchen. It is extremely easy, but I would not attempt it for more than six servings.

INGREDIENTS: for six people, four free-range or organic egg yolks, six level tablespoons castor sugar, finely grated zest of half a lemon, small wine glass (100ml) marsala or other dessert wine.

METHOD: Put the yolks, sugar and lemon zest in a bowl and whisk until pale and foamy. Place the bowl over a pan of simmering water and whisking continuously, gradually add the wine. The mixture is ready to serve when thick and soft, in glasses or bowls, plain or over some prepared berry fruit. Blueberries or raspberries are particularly good.

WARNING: this recipe, and those like it such as mayonnaise, ice-cream and custard, which contain uncooked eggs, should only be attempted by those and for those who have no fear of eating raw eggs. Salmonella has not gone away, it is a nasty illness and government health warnings still apply.

Next week: The Perfect Kissel



Remove the lamb from the pot

her recipes are adventurous and appealing, including cranberry ice-cream, a delicate white coffee ice-cream in which roasted whole beans are infused in the cream, quince ice-cream using quince jelly or jam, and cucumber ice-cream. And her savoury ices are quite extraordinary — for example, an iced curry soufflé with prawns.

- Salt of peas, fennel and mint (Serves 6)
- Fresh mint leaves, 2 or 3 sprigs
- 1tsp coarse sea salt
- Freshly ground black pepper
- 4tsp walnut, hazelnut or olive oil

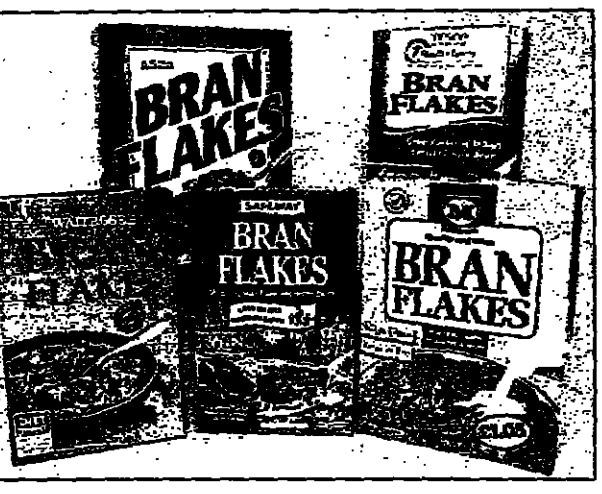
CONSUMING INTERESTS: BRAN FLAKES

BRAN FLAKES are supposed to be good for you. Would anyone eat them for any other reason? Having failed to acquire the taste myself, and given up on children, I tried them on various forms of livestock. Horses, cattle, goats, pigeons and starlings all refused. Only hedge-

hogs seemed really appreciative. Note: bran may reduce the risk of bowel cancer, but only oat bran (as found in porridge but not in these cereals, which contain wheat bran) provides the soluble fibre that can help to reduce blood cholesterol. ROBIN YOUNG

Asda Bran Flakes £1.25 for 750g Claims: "Great taste guaranteed. Naturally low in fat." Provides 85 per cent recommended daily allowance (RDA) for seven vitamins and iron per 100g, compared with 100 per cent for most competitors. The 100g also contains 15g fibre, 19g sugars and 0.7g sodium. Verdict: sugary. *

Tesco Healthy Eating Bran Flakes £1.23 for 500g Claims: "High in fibre and folic acid. Fortified with vitamins and iron." 100g covers 100 per cent RDA (200 per cent for folic acid) of eight vitamins plus iron. Again 100g contains 15.3g fibre, 16.9g sugars and 0.7g sodium but no malt extract. Free film when you pay only £2.49 for photo processing. Verdict: Free film is not much of a come-on. **



Waitrose Bran Flakes £1.23 for 500g Claims: "High in fibre, low in fat." 30g serving is claimed to supply 30 per cent RDA of eight vitamins, plus iron. 16.9g per 100g sugars, 0.7g sodium and 12.7g fibre. Verdict: Lower fibre content

Sainsbury's Bran Flakes £1.23 for 500g Claims: "Fortified with eight vitamins and iron including the B vitamin folic acid." 30g claimed to provide 30 per cent RDA of eight vitamins. Verdict: Darker, larger flakes, with a reasonable anti-sog factor. **

Morrisons Bran Flakes £1.05 for 500g Claims: "High fibre, low in fat. Fortified with vitamins and iron." The 30g serving is also claimed to give 26 per cent RDA of seven vitamins and of iron, while 100g provides 85 per cent without milk or sugar. Verdict: Looked and tasted like Asda flakes. *

Sainsbury's Bran Flakes £1.25 for 500g Claims: "Fortified with vitamins and iron. High in fibre, low in fat." 100g gives 100 per cent of eight vitamins plus iron (200 per cent for folic acid). Verdict: Tasted the same as Sainsbury's and Somerfield's. **

Somerfield Healthy Selection Bran Flakes £1.25 for 500g Claims: Fortified with vitamins and iron. Contains twice as much folic acid as most rivals. Verdict: Akin to Sainsbury's and Sainsbury's for my money indistinguishable. **

Ivo Tennant meets the woman who planned meals around cricket matches, Penny Cowdrey

When life was a picnic

Penny Cowdrey is unusual among wives of top class sportsmen. At the family home in Limsfield, Surrey, she cooked for not one, but two England captains. Her former husband, Colin, was one of the foremost cricketers of his day and her eldest son, Christopher, succeeded him in one of the most exciting jobs in British sport ten years ago. For good reason, they are simply.



Chris Cowdrey's favourite meal is a Sunday roast

Colin would often return from playing for Kent and England at 2am because there were few motorways in the 1960s. Sometimes he did not get back until the next day. My four children, Christopher, Amy, Carol and Graham, would be playing cricket in the garden and it was impossible to bring them all in for meals. When they did come in, they were always in the way in the kitchen, but I didn't mind," says Mrs Cowdrey.

"I am not a great cook nor a keen one, and I wasn't good at preparing dinner parties. I did a year's course in cookery and dress-making at Kingham in Oxfordshire, but often it was a matter of putting together meals at the last minute. Before we moved to Limsfield, Colin rang me one evening from the Oval to say he was bringing his Kent vice-captain back to our house in

in," she says. "Colin was always fighting his weight. His favourite dishes were lambs' kidneys, kedgeree, liver and bacon, scrambled eggs and mushrooms. He loved fish, which none of my children did. I don't think Graham or Carol would eat fish now. In those pre-pasta days we would eat shepherd's pie and lots of spinach — we had a big vegetable garden at Limsfield. "Cooking is less important now because of the increase in ready-made dishes. I go into Sainsbury and buy prepared lasagne. Cheese and biscuits are more popular than sweets. Thirty years ago, Colin was all for getting a housekeeper, but I didn't want people in the house. He loves wine, yet I don't drink. We kept some for dinner parties. I was quite capable in those days, but I have lost confidence now. I can't even make the postman a cup of tea. Are you allowed to eat steak anymore?"



Colin Cowdrey and his son Chris in Sierra Leone in 1960

Ms Cowdrey was spared some of the chores when her children went to boarding school. She became, instead, adept at preparing picnics which she took to their school matches. As Colin continued to play first-class cricket until 1976 and hence was often away in summer and on tour abroad in winter, her tasks were considerable. She baked cakes for Derek Underwood, an England colleague of Colin, and recalls another outstanding cricketer, Godfrey Evans, doing the washing-up in her kitchen.

Christopher, who like his father, captained Kent as well as England, and who is now a BBC radio commentator on Test matches, is, according to his mother, no mean cook himself. He often prepares Sunday lunch at his home in Ascot, notably his favourite roasts. Penny's special memory of preparing food for Graham, who still plays for Kent, is of putting sugar on his strawberries. "What's this white stuff?" he asked her.

All four children are now married. Penny Cowdrey lives on her own and is selling her cottage in Limsfield Chart to be nearer her daughter and Jeremy, whose house in Surrey she regularly visits for

Sunday lunch. She is divorced from Colin, who is now Lord Cowdrey of Tonbridge. "He left 20 years ago this October and I am still waiting for him to come back," she said.

She still follows cricket avidly and is sceptical about women who wish to join MCC. And she still keeps four or five favourite recipes from the days before she was married.

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Joanna Pitman



Alice enjoys her first family outing in the Land Rover of the pram world

A couple of weeks before Alice was born, I waddled into the baby department of John Lewis, gathered a trolley load of baby paraphernalia, forked out an unspeakable sum for it, then turned to cast an eye over the prams. Forty-five minutes later I waddled out of John Lewis, laden with brochures and reeling at the ludicrous £600-£800 price tags.

I bought my first car for less than that. On the way home I decided that we did not really need a pram at all. So when a very kind friend offered us the use of theirs, we went round to pick it up in ten minutes flat. Our borrowed Marmet is a magnificent specimen, definitely high church in the traditional perambulator world; very Kensington Gardens. It has huge white wheels, polished chrome and leather rig-

ging, serious mudguards and bumpers — for bad days when parents need to vent their frustrations — and shiny grey bodywork etched with white flash stripes. All it lacks is a family crest on the side.

● SIX-DAY-OLD Alice settled into her pram as if she were boarding a Bentley and Giles and I took her out for a spin. In the excitement, I had forgotten that I had not been out of doors since the birth. I moved my legs slowly in what I had always thought was a walking motion. They did not seem to work — the stitches and the swelling were in the way — and, like the Pope, I needed two stout walking sticks.

The whole business of giving birth and getting through the first few sleepless days and nights

leaves you feeling vulnerable and rather pathetic. Going from an infant world smelling of baby lotion out into the real world was a serious upheaval. I felt as if I had been out of action for six months. Inching our way round the block, we would have been spotted a mile off as first-time parents out on their first family outing.

Every car seemed to be belching hideous black fumes. We crossed

the road to avoid smoking pedestrians. We fended off imagined broken bottle threats and frowned furiously at a couple of inconsiderate boys having an argument near the pram. Where we live, there is no need to fret about which is the correct side of the handstand by which to position yourself in the park. It is more a question of trying to avoid the drums outside the Tube station.

When we got home we realised that the Marmet was not built for a house with seven steep front steps. A joint family hernia nearly erupted getting it up them again. Any-one got a muscular butler for loan?

● THOSE who claim that they sleep like a baby have probably never had one. New babies do not sleep in predictable patterns. If they are awake all day and are be-

ing "sociable", this does not necessarily mean that they are going to sleep all night.

Four weeks of being up at all hours at the beck and call of Alice's stomach. I feel ready to run away and join the firm of solicitors that a friend swears she saw advertised in a Wiltshire directory — Gotobed, Allday & Knight. As they probably will not offer me a partnership, I must resign myself to a full-time bovine life for the foreseeable future.

however, your nipples are merely red and hot, take a couple of cabbage leaves, uncooked and preferably Savoy, and place one in each bra cup. When in pain, walking around with a large helping of crudites in each bra cup has not bothered me so far. I am waiting for the Vivienne Westwood cabbage-cupped slip dress with in-built doughnut bustle to hit the catwalks for nursing mothers with stitches.

● BREAST feeding is all very well for those happy to spend five intimate hours in every 24 bonding with their babies, but the sore and leaky nipples are another thing. If your nipples start smarting or even bleeding from over-zealous sucking (it can be a bit like pliers pulling hard), take a couple of large fresh carrots, grate them coarsely and scoop the results into your bra. It is the simplest recipe and the oozing keratin next to the skin apparently has wonderful healing powers. If,

● VISITORS continue to flock for baby viewing and can be clearly divided between those who want to cuddle and those who definitely do not. There are also those who want to cuddle but are terrified that the baby will cry, and those who want to cuddle but are terrified that the baby will eject nasty substances on to their smart clothes. Luckily we have had only one serious overflow situation when the recipient of Alice's novel greeting had to go home in a second-hand shirt.

The family we brought from abroad

Adopting from abroad is easier than before but still demanding, says Adrienne Burgess



Heather and David Noon with their adopted children Lucy, from Vietnam, Kate, from Romania, and Miranda, nearly two, from China. "People are made desperate by the system"

There is good news for British couples in despair over the tiny number of British babies available for adoption. No longer must they envy couples from countries such as Australia and America which have had government-approved overseas adoption schemes for decades. Thanks to new agreements signed with China and, most recently, Romania, British adopters, too, can begin the process of adopting a child from another country with a feeling that at last they will be given some support in what can be a most unpredictable endeavour.

With inter-country adoption, there is only one thing you can be sure of," says Heather Noon, a BBC project manager and adoptive parent. "You won't get what you planned for."

Mrs Noon and her husband David, a designer, do not come across as a once-desperate childless couple who would have done anything to get a child, and she says they never cry. "Among inter-country adopters I've not met people like that," she says. "But I have met people made desperate by the system."

'With an inter-country adoption, you never get what you planned for'

Then civil war erupted in Romania and, through a work contact, Mrs Noon flew out to meet a Romanian journalist who was covering the crisis in the orphanages. The Noons had made a pact: they would only give a home to a child who really needed one, but in the event this was not an issue. The need was overwhelming. "It was exactly as it appeared on the television — floors of children — three, four years old, lying in rusty cots with sodden mattresses." In only one orphanage were there older children, with white skins because they had never been out of doors, draped in too-long grey overalls, shuffling round a room. It took Mrs Noon a year to get over what she saw. Even now, it makes her cry unexpectedly.

Kate was three months old when Heather first saw her, four-and-a-half months old when she was brought home. For the first year, the Noons took turns to care for her: one parent did nights, the other days. Having escaped a prison cot, Kate screamed if they tried to put her in another. Her sleep pattern was completely disrupted; she did not know night from day. The Noons swapped 12-hour shifts cuddling her down, snatching sleep when she did. Until she was four or five, she always

ended up sleeping in the Noons' bed.

However, she put on 1lb in her first week and began immediately to bloom. Encouraged, the Noons turned towards Romania again, but it was 1991 and the door had shut. They considered Russia or Albania ("our children would have the same ethnic background") but could make no headway. Every day, Mrs

Noon would phone a different embassy. Then she found out about the Vietnamese Programme for Displaced Children. The Noons couriered their papers out and waited. In December 1993 a photograph of Lucy Thu Hang "aged around two" arrived, and in February 1994 Mrs Noon flew to Hanoi. Jet-lagged, she stood in the orphanage and was handed

Lucy. "She has beautiful yellow hair, like yours," the staff said. She certainly had. Malnutrition had bleached the colour from her hair.

Lucy is now seven and the road has been hard. She has had psychotherapy, speech therapy and educational support. The Noons started her at school too early. "We expected far too much of her and it made her very unhappy. So

many of us who have adopted from other countries are professionals haven't yet learnt to read the cues properly."

For Lucy, it is all coming together at last and the Noons have completed their family. Baby Miranda, from China, now almost two, promised to be a straightforward adoption. The Noons, having discovered Vietnam's Programme for Dis-

placed Children had closed, found her via the Department of Health, because of the new agreement with China.

But with Miranda, the delays were such that the Noons almost gave up hope. A process that should have taken a year took two-and-a-half, and without the dedication of a Chinese guide, who plodded from building to building in Hanoi, collecting the Noons' papers

which had become inexplicably scattered, Miranda would not be with them today. Like Kate and Lucy, she is not what the Noons expected. They had been told she would have special needs ("of a minor correctable kind"), but so far the doctors have found nothing wrong. Miranda appears to be totally healthy. "How lucky for you," I say. "No," Mrs Noon says. "Not lucky for us — lucky for her."

Heaven is rarely found in another sphere

The trouble with holidays is that they can lead to the post-holiday blues. When you arrive back to a bevy of bills, a boss with terminal grumpiness and the British summer-cum-winter, the realisation that this is your life is profoundly disheartening. If only you could sell up and move to that flower-festooned Provencal village, life would be so much better. Or would it?

Judy Wall, who runs a consultancy service to help people who want to change their lives, says: "Many of the people who come to me talk of setting up in the little cottage in the Dordogne or farmhouse in Tuscany. It's a potent, sensual dream. But often the dream is just that. It's a sign that something is wrong in a client's lifestyle and is not a realistic solution."

Think carefully before making drastic life changes, says Sharon Maxwell-Magnus

is with private clients. She believes that Lifeplan differs from executive coaching or career counselling: "It doesn't start from what you've done and what you are qualified to do — in other words, the person you've become. Life planning starts by looking at your values. Often clients come to me when they've accomplished something they thought would make them happy — but instead it has left them disappointed."

TEN MINUTE LIFE PLAN

- Put this list in order of personal importance: career, climate, environment, family, leisure, social life.
- Answer these questions to identify your priorities. How do you get on best with your loved ones close by or at a distance? How many times have you moved to a new area in your life? How did you cope? Can you make friends with anyone, anywhere? How vital is friendship to you? Would you be prepared to make financial sacrifices to accommodate an alternative lifestyle?
- Which are the two most important priorities? Which is the top one? What one thing could you do in the next few weeks to realign your life with your priorities?

She believes that today there are a plethora of choices. "The trouble is that it's often hard to sort through the real possibilities and the ones that are non-starters. That's why it's worth planning for change," she says. "I advise clients to make one change at a time, using the head as well as the heart. Then I tell them to take a look at whether it's worked before going on to the next one."

Carole Singleton, 43, was working as a training manager and going through a divorce when she decided to consult Lifeplan. "I'd felt a vague discontent in my role for about nine months, but when my job changed I decided to do something about it," she says. "I'd been head-hunted three times to take another post, but I wasn't sure."

"Life planning was very helpful in that although I didn't learn anything new about myself, it helped me to focus on things that had always been at the back of my mind. It gave me the confidence to stick with the changes I made."

Ms Singleton had six sessions with Lifeplan. As a result, she decided to become self-employed and also scheduled some leisure time into her life. Twelve months on, she has never been happier. "I have plenty of clients so I'm busy work-wise. But I have also taken up golf which I just wouldn't have made time for before. I'm even having a crack at an interior design course which is something I've always wanted to do."

Sometimes, it seems that just thinking about your life here can be more beneficial than leaping across the Channel to start a new one.

● Lifeplan: 01903 764301.

Countries releasing children to UK adopters: Designated countries (with whom the UK has an official agreement): China (only provides healthy babies to childless couples over 35, other potential parents may apply for babies with some medical problems), Romania (new agreement just signed, no children out yet), Undesignated countries (no official agreement): Thailand, Guatemala, Philippines.

Who can help: OASIS (Overseas Adoption Support and Information Services): friendly, personal, supportive network/information service provided by past and current adopters, which will give you the ins and outs of adopting from specific countries. Contact: Coral Williams, Dan y graig, Balaclava Road, Glais, Swansea SA7 9HU (01792 944329).

Overseas Adoption Helpline: experienced parent-run service with detailed information pack. PO Box 13899, London N6 4BW (0990 168742).

The Department of Health supplies a free government information pack (including excellent material on Romania). Community Services, 38 Wellington House, 133-155 Waterloo Road, London SE1 8UG (0171-972 4082/4).

PPIAS (Parent to Parent Information on Adoption Services): focuses on UK adoption but also has a useful book list. Contact: Philly Morrell, Lower Boddington, Daventry, Northamptonshire NN11 6YB.

PNPIC (Parent Network for Post-Institutionalised Child(ren) Information/Support Service): for those adopting institutionalised children. Contact: Jean Riley, 31 Court Lane, Wolstanton Newcastle, Staffordshire (01782 858915).



Judy Wall: "People who want to move usually have something wrong at home"

السنة الأولى

Where the director likes to cut

Trees have become an obsession in Lord Putnam's garden, says Jane Owen



The garden, created with the help of an Irish landscape gardener

ME AND MY GARDEN: DAVID PUTNAM

If you are looking for the living definition of picturesque, go no further than the garden of film-maker Lord Putnam's home in Skibbereen, Co Cork. Cows graze opposite, hills undulate, herons glide, and Lord Putnam's offspring and friends, wearing jeans or deconstructed black, wander from the house down to an exquisite Japanese-style boathouse, its pale jetty pushing into the water.

Around the boathouse are the beginnings of a water garden which will be surrounded by bamboos and acers. Large rocks dot the new pool, which is fed by three man-made waterfalls.

The lily, a wide, tidal river at the bottom of the south-facing garden, obeys the rules of classical filmmaking by winding grandly from top left to bottom right. Film scenes of armies on the march, Lord Putnam observes, always follow this pattern.

The boathouse was intended to be an office for Lord Putnam after his wife, Patsy, became weary of work invading the family home. Once, seven rolls of fax paper were used in one day. But the building is so alluring it seems more likely that the family will take up residence there and leave Lord Putnam with the house as his office.

Contours of the land frame the view from the house down to the river and the gentle hills beyond. False contours. A hill, or at least half a hill planted with pines, was built to the east of the house to blot out the sight of a neighbouring bungalow. It took one man and his tractor six months to create and now it passes as natural until you walk around the back of it to a highly unnatural drop of about 20ft.

The hill was Lord Putnam's idea. Naturally, for a film man, he has an eye, one he first focused on gardens when he made his magnificent Wiltshire landscape garden.

However, it is a contemplative approach that gives him inspiration. "I think you just have to sit in a place over a long time and it tells you what to do," Lord Putnam says. So, with the help of the Irish landscape designer Verney Naylor, he created the garden and made it the glorious place it is today. Patsy, a fashion designer, did the same for the house.

Lord Putnam's method is similar to that of the 19th-century landscaper Humphrey Repton but, instead of the grand Red Book, Putnam has a series of garden photographs on which he scrawls his design ideas in black marker pen. Every inch of the garden is being perfected Lord Putnam-style. The drive, heralded by an old, stone arch clustered with roses, is lined with formal triple rows of trees, two of silver birch, and, on the outer edge, a row of walnuts on either side. Reeds will be planted

along the river below with another row of trees, partly as a windbreak to shield a planned wildflower meadow. This will be bordered by shrubs and small trees: field maple, escallonia, Holme Oak, *Pittosporum magellanica*, Portuguese laurel, *Quercus petraea* and holly. Trees are Lord Putnam's thing. He planted nearly 3,000 in his Wiltshire garden and has planted about 1,000 so far in Cork. When he does manual work it is normally tree planting although, oddly for a gardener, he prefers not to work alone.

"Trees have become an obsession. I love colours and textures. I love oaks, there were 22 species on one walk in Wiltshire — silver birches and beech — and I am growing to like sycamores. I admire their strength and durability," he says. He is trustee of the Landscape Institute — an interest which developed when he met the late Sir Geoffrey Jellicoe — as well as being involved with the National Memorial Arboretum.

To the west of the house, a mown track leads to a wooden door in a stone wall. It opens on to a peaceful sheltered garden with a three-tiered Victoria fountain playing at its centre. At the far end, a dazzling border of orange and yellow poppies, nasturtiums, golden hop and marigolds cluster around two metal-framed arbours.

There is virtually no frost — vast arum lilies nod their heads from pots as if they were in an Italian garden. One of the main problems is a fierce wind, which roars up from the river. Here, in the warm, walled garden, the air is still. To one side a raised bed offers asparagus and herbs of every kind from borage to chervil while, in the rest of the garden, stone paths make eight beds of densely planted fruit, vegetables and flowers: blue spires of delphiniums loll against soft fruit, arichokes, lupins, sedum, aquilegia, fennel, roses, iris, campanula, mahonia and raspberries.

The stone paths are rich in chives and wild strawberries. In one corner a stone pavilion, the



Some of Lord Putnam's elegant French gardening tools



Lord Putnam in front of his Japanese-style boathouse in Co Cork. "Gardening keeps me sane," says Putnam who has planted over 1,000 trees on his estate



The finished boathouse, which is Lord Putnam's office, will be surrounded by bamboo and acers

inside of the roof made to look like a tent, was a surprise present from Lord Putnam to his wife. He emerges from the pavilion proudly displaying his own set of four hand tools. They are elegant, French and pristine — never used, I would say, although he insists otherwise.

But he has the day jobs that eat into time for arboriculture and gardening: finishing off what will be his last film (which has yet to be named) and forging ahead with his new career in voluntary work which involves visiting about 50 state schools a year and trying to raise the profile of education and teachers in this country.

He has a passion for this project. A couple of weeks ago he launched the Oscars of the teaching world — the Platons. Film crews will broad-

cast live from schools while the chosen teachers receive their awards in London in a ceremony beamed back to massive screens in school playgrounds.

Lord Putnam aims to make teaching sexy. This seems a far cry from Hollywood and a massive change of career. "I am 57 and so in any walk of life I would have expected to stop crisis management, which is what I am trained in, and let the golf course beckon."

"Now I'm involved in the implementation of government," he says, while insisting he is not one of Blair's Boys — hardly ever sees him, in fact. But he takes some credit for helping Blair identify the financial importance of the cultural industries of this country, taking over where manufacturing left off.

He talks of the frustration of being in an industry for 30 years which, he felt, was never understood in terms of its power and potential for the British economy.

It was partly that frustration which persuaded him to head Columbia Pictures, a job which ended abruptly. He blames himself for that, says he was naive, did not adhere to strict American protocol and took on too much.

He still regrets it, although his role as a mover and shaker on this side of the pond is burgeoning. "That is what my whole life is about: where are we going and how are we going to get there? I have identified the industries that will take us forward to the first quarter

of the 21st century. What we have is an extraordinary gift for originality and invention."

Lord Putnam's life seems honed and blessed: 36 years of marriage to a beautiful, witty wife, a sprinkling of grandchildren and a career encompassing glamour, power, creativity and influence.

However, there is one blot on this exquisite landscape: depression. It seems the depression is in some way linked to overwork. He deals with the problem with occasional counselling as well as help from Patsy. And, possibly, the garden. "Gardening keeps me sane," says Lord Putnam, who wings his way to his Irish idyll for 18 weeks in the year as well as for the whole of the summer.

He hopes to bring that sanity to Nesta — the National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts — of which he has been appointed the first head. The new national fund which was launched earlier this month, with a £200 million pledge from the National Lottery, is aimed at breaking the madness of British innovators looking abroad to fund and develop their ideas.

Lord Putnam will chair the board of eight trustees. "We are a nation, by and large, of relatively low aspirations," he says. "It would be nice if Nesta could alter it."

From the calm of his garden he might just do that.

Follies and love nests

GARDENS TO VISIT

■ Stancombe Park
In Dursley, Gloucester, on the B4060, 2-6pm, £3. For more information, call 01453 542815. TODAY Stancombe is opening exclusively for Times readers. Stancombe is in the Cotswolds — at their most undulating and enchanting — and the Victorian responsible for the park made use of the topography to create an extraordinary garden of follies and secret gardens which can seem almost eerie on a misty day.



Temple Newsam, Leeds

The most remarkable part of Stancombe is a ten-acre secret garden inside a thick woodland which conceals the area from the house. The history of the gardens is sketchy but the story goes that the owner, vicar David Edwards, made it as a love nest in the mid-19th century.

A path runs from the main gardens to a valley and then woodland where it plunges into a tunnel. Roses greet visitors on the far side of the tunnel. On the other side are more tunnels, a Doric temple and a steep hill. The lake is enclosed by willow, oak, copper, beech, horse chestnut and poplar, and probably described by Evelyn Waugh in a passage of *Brideshead Revisited* that he wrote at Stancombe. In the main garden there is an abundance of roses, including the new R. Constance Finn.

■ Temple Newsam Park.
3m southeast of Leeds. Open 9am to dusk, daily. Free (01132 645535). THIS park was landscaped by Capability Brown. It has three national collections: aster, delphinium and Phlox paniculata, and varied styles of garden.

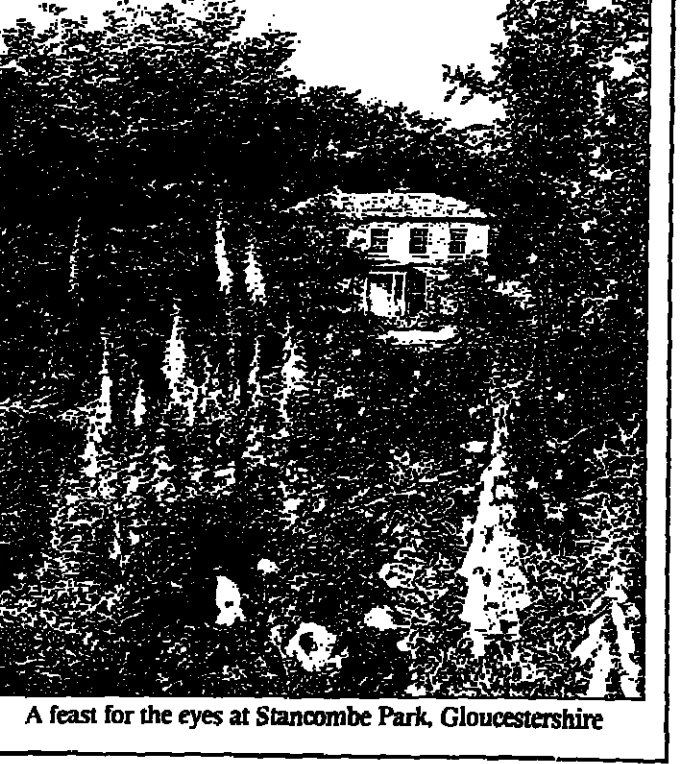
The rhododendrons are over still splendid. Some roses are hanging on in the walled garden while the bog garden and arboretum make peaceful sanctuaries.

There is a formal parterre, a standard Italian-style garden, lime trees around the house, as well as greenhouses bursting with climbing geraniums, ivy and (earthbound) cacti.

■ 10A The Pavement
10a The Pavement, London SE27, Off Ladys Road, down alleyway behind All Seasons Fish Bar. Today this garden is opening for Times readers only. Also Sunday July 26. 10am-noon and 2pm-6pm. £1 (for National Gardens Scheme). For information call Brendan Byrne (0181-761 5651). National Gardens Scheme (01483 211535).

THE directions to this garden may not be promising but the pilgrimage is worth it. The minute space — 15ft by 8ft — is planted with the sole aim of pleasing the eye at this time of year. All-year interest would be impossible to achieve on top of what Brendan Byrne creates in July. There are about 60 different kinds of plant here. The country-style planting is mostly in containers and includes some rare plants. Be warned, the garden is popular and visitors may have to queue.

JANE OWEN
ANDREW LAMSON



A feast for the eyes at Stancombe Park, Gloucestershire

Q We used to sell clippings from our yew hedge to a firm which extracts a chemical for cancer research from them. Now we understand the chemical is being produced synthetically. So what do we do with our clippings? If we burn them, will the smoke poison cattle or wildlife? Can they be used as a mulch? — Mrs PD, Morton, Devizes, Wiltshire.

A It seems a shame that such a good use for a waste product is unavailable. Some firms are not collecting cuttings this year. Others are collecting from existing customers only. As far as I can gather, synthetic methods are not in place yet, but may well be so within a couple of years.

The best alternative use for your clippings is to put them through a fine shredder and use the result as a mulch, live, or after composting. Remember that if you use them green they will turn orangey brown before they fade to a more neutral shade. It is not attractive and you may wish to use them out of sight. Smaller amounts of clippings can be

STEPHEN ANDERTON'S GARDEN ANSWERS

shredded and mixed into the general compost heap as roughage to keep it open textured. This goes for small amounts of any woody clippings; chopped into lengths 2-3in long, a few woody stems can always be mixed in.

Burn them dry where it will cause as little nuisance as possible and be quickly dispersed. Yew smoke will not fell cattle.



Q We have recently been given permission by the local council to fell a 35ft holly growing against the buttress of a very old 10ft garden wall which was cracking extensively. As a condition of felling we have to plant another holly 4ft from the wall. We already have a 25ft female berrying holly only 20ft from the spot. What would be a good small variegated berrying holly to plant now? — Mr I. Crossman, Chester.

A Since you will never get the old holly roots out without damaging the wall, why not let the stump regrow and clip it to 6-7 ft? It will regrow to that size in two years. At that height it will exert no wind-rock on the wall, and its moisture demands will be minimal so shrinkage will be reduced. The roots will stay alive, so it will not cause any subsidence.

If you want to replace it anyway, consider first if the holly to be felled ever had berries. If not, it was a male. If there are no other male hollies about, replant with a variegated male such as 'Silver Queen'. Plant a dwarf variety, such as the slow-growing yellow hedgehog holly *Ilex Aquifolium* 'Ferox Aurea'.

Q Mrs A. Bates and Mrs L. Boyce have written to ask how to deal with serious attacks of mildew on the foliage of *Acanthus* ('Bears Breeches'). Even flower buds have shrivelled before opening, and nearby Michaelmas daisies and phlox have also been attacked.

Powdery mildew can wreck *acanthus*. Wet seasons are the worst. New foliage, especially, can shrivel badly. But *acanthus* is a tough plant, so cut off and burn the infected parts. Spray the remainder with a suitable fungicide such as carbendazim and next year spray at the first sign. Most mildews are specific to one plant, so it will be a different species attacking the Michaelmas



Richard Allen

daisies and phlox. The problem lies in the cool, wet weather. Next year there may be no mildew. Michaelmas daisies and phlox are not as tough as *acanthus*, and should be thoroughly sprayed but not cut down unless they are covered in mildew.

Write to Garden Answers, The Times, 1, Pall Mall Street, London W1J 0JN. Advice is offered without legal responsibility. Enclosures cannot be returned.

Bringing history back to life

Buying a house with a neglected historic garden can turn novice gardeners into accidental experts, writes Barbara Abbs

Buying properties has always been a gamble. These days, however, there are new hazards. If you buy a house that once had an important garden attached to it, somebody may expect you to take on the long-term job of bringing it back to life.

Rosamund Wallinger and her husband bought an Arts & Crafts manor house in Hampshire and were soon informed by an employee of Hampshire County Council that they had just bought a Gertrude Jekyll garden as well. Mrs Wallinger took on the task of recreating the garden, meticulously following Ms Jekyll's original plans. She made such a success of it that she featured on the cover of *American House & Garden*.

John Jackson runs Fair Warning Wasted Talent, an agency which handles the overseas tours of pop groups such as Blur, Wet Wet Wet, Iron Maiden, Metallica and Guns 'n' Roses. Romantic gardening are not the first words that spring to mind in such a context, but only an incorrigible romantic would buy what Mr Jackson and his wife Sharn, an interior designer, describe as "a derelict semi without a garage" simply because they fell in love with the surrounding trees.

When the Jacksons bought it, Sedgwick Park in Sussex had been empty for nine years and the garden neglected. He wasn't keen on the property at first but Mrs Jackson wanted to see the house, so they visited it a second time. Mrs Jackson then looked at a group of huge Monterey pines with deeply fissured bark and thought, "I fancy having those in my backyard".

They knew little about the property and nothing about gardening but they are fast learners. As they found out more about the garden, they grew more enthusiastic. Beneath the overgrown hedges and self-seeded trees, there was a layout they realised could be brought back to life.

Armed with a chain saw and pictures of the garden, which had been photographed in the first half of the century, Mr and Mrs Jackson have, with the help of some excellent gardeners, started to restore the overgrown Victorian garden.

Restoration has not been without conflict. The couple were forced to fell hundreds of trees, including self-seeded magnolias andholm oaks, to re-open the vistas and avenues. Mrs Jackson was ready to dig her heels in, but eventually relented when she realised they were blocking the view towards Chantoubury Ring and Worthing.

However, not everything is to be a carbon copy of the original garden. Mrs Jackson has very particular ideas about the colours and effects she wants, although she would be the first to admit that the scale of the garden at Sedgwick Park is daunting. Slightly fussy and labour-intensive flower beds at the side of the main vista have been replaced with a bold checkerboard design of alternate flower and grass squares — inspired by a picture of Sir Philip Sassoon's 1920s garden at Port Lympne.

Philip and Angela Lowe bought their house at Warrham in Sussex because it had a piece of woodland attached for their sons to play in. Mr Lowe then found a document from the International Conifer Federation dated 1958 which said the wood contained some important trees. He asked the Forestry Commission to look at the wood, but it told him there were no trees of any interest there. Fortunately, Owen Johnson, a volunteer recorder for the Tree Survey of the British Isles, decided to inspect the woodland, which had by then been partly cleared by the Lowes, and measured the trees. He soon discovered that it contained some of the finest specimens in Sussex and one or two rarities. In all there were 110 noteworthy trees.



Philip Lowe, right, and his son James, left, make room for new trees in their Sussex wood containing 110 noteworthy specimens, including the tallest recorded thorn tree

"As they found out more, they grew more enthusiastic"



Angela and Philip Lowe among their spectacular oak trees

Since then most of the Lowes' free time has been taken up by land clearance. They have restored a fine vista through the garden and over the countryside, surrounded by such gems as *Quercus falcata*, the Spanish oak, *Quercus biolor*, the Swamp White oak, an *Umbellularia californica*, the Californian laurel (which is one of the largest in Britain) and two thorn trees, *Crataegus tinuatifolia*, that Mr Johnson says are the tallest recorded.

Since Mr Johnson measured and recorded the trees, the Lowes have cleared more ground and discovered fine specimens of *Cryptomeria japonica* and *Acer griseum*.

Percy Crundall and his wife bought a post-war brick house called Barton Pines near East Grinstead in the 1950s. Several years later the bramble and sapling-covered left-hand side of the garden was cleared and revealed to be a monu-

mental one-acre rock garden with ravines several feet deep.

Barton Pines was part of the Brockhurst Park Estate that had belonged to Sir Frederick Hanbury of the famous gardening family that gave Wisley Garden to the Royal Horticultural Society and still owns the *Giardini Hanbury* at La Mortola Insuperiori on the Italian Riviera. Sir Frederick acquired Brockhurst Park in 1908 and employed the skills of famous gardeners such as E.A. Bowles and Reginald Farrer. The estate was broken up after the war and the famous rock garden disappeared under vegetation.

In common with Mrs Wallinger and the Jacksons, Mrs Crundall soon turned into a keen gardener. She became a dedicated member of the Alpine Garden Society and devoted her life to restoring the huge rocks that characterised the garden.

Since Mrs Crundall died, Mr Crundall, now aged 90, lives with their daughter, Susan and her husband, Brian. All three are concerned about the garden's future and are doing their best to prevent it deteriorating. They employ a gardener one day a week but this magnificent Edwardian garden needs a full-time gardener to care for it.



The Lowes' Indian bean tree

As anyone who has done so can confirm, buying a house with an old neglected garden can be a surprising and enriching experience. Suddenly, even to the novice gardener, a new world opens up — one that involves botany, history, archaeology, endless labour, a lot of expense, a little worry, and visits from strangers who call to give you advice. It is rather like having a new baby and it can be equally life-enhancing.

If you think your garden may have been designed by a famous gardener, or if it has historic features or rare plants, the County Gardens Trusts may be able to help.



■ Use string to give light support to the long extension growths of climbing roses while they are developing. Strong winds can rip them off at the base.

■ Watch out for red spider damage in hot, dry glasshouses. Increasing the humidity will help.

■ If lawns must be watered, soak them thoroughly. Dampening the surface makes them more prone to drought.

■ When adding dry material to compost heaps, pour a can of water over them to keep them active. Always cover the top to retain moisture and heat.

● The Association of County Gardens Trusts, 77 Covercross Street, London EC1M 6BP. Tel/Fax: 0171-251 2610. The Tree Register of the British Isles, The Hill End, Wootton, Bedford MK43 9HP. The Trees of Sussex by Owen Johnson is published in September by Pomergate Press.

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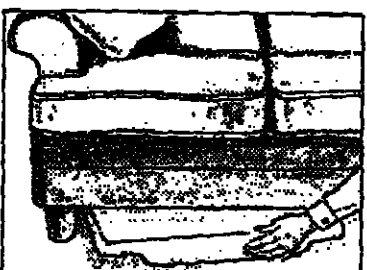
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My grounds for stamping

Vigilance will keep those unwelcome visitors at bay, says Stephen Anderton

When the summer sun shines hot in this garden, I see where snails have been. Night and day, rasping away. Clumps of the ice plant *Sedum 'Autumn Joy'*, normally as succulent as hearted cabbages, start to look weary. Stems will lose their shine, the flower heads cease to develop, and the foliage begins to curl slightly.



The garden snail can wreak havoc. 'Girdled' stems will lose their shine and flower heads cease to develop

Hands and knees then, to see what is going on. And at the bottom of the doubtful stems are patches of sunken skin, almost girdling the stem. Those which have been girdled completely are fading fastest. I wondered last year if vine weevils were the culprits. For gardeners usually find the sedums confident as plastic, to be unassailed by common pests. But it seems the humble snail, if so moved, will rasp away the succulent "bark" until only the woody core remains. I have seen them at it now, and it's a kiss of death, at least for that stem.

So the night vigils begin. I lumber out in the half-light with a yogurt pot and one by one I pick them off, night after night. What happens to them after that, well, that's my business. In the clear light of day my lilies are in trouble. It's a clump of the double tiger lily, with stinking fat stems, woolly-white at the top, and with bulbous formations in the leaf axils all the way up the stem long before it starts to flower.

But in the bright noon sun, a flash of scarlet catches my eye, on a leaf in the middle of the clump. Sure enough it's a lily beetle. Brave creature, to venture out so boldly. They must taste foul or the birds would have had him.

I have seen just how much damage lily beetles can do. They may only be the size of a woodlouse, but they eat like horses. Leaves, buds, seed-pods, the lot: they have catholic tastes (so long as it's all lily) and large families of equally hungry grubs.

Spraying with bifenthrin or pirimiphos-methyl helps, if you can find the creatures to hit them. The best answer, however, is a swift surgical strike. But these boys have guerrilla tactics. Get too close, get between them and the sun, and they know something's wrong. They drop to the ground and show their camouflaged underbelly. They are gone, believe me.

So I look for a nice convex leaf of apple mint and turn it over, as a safety net. I slide the mint leaf under the occupied lily leaf and I bring another mint

leaf down on top and squeeze. The carapace collapses. Half an hour later, I sidle up to have another look. Where there's one, there's bound to be more. But the coast is clear.

Half an hour later, I cast another glance, and there deep in the clump is another, single-mindedly consuming a leaf. Gotcha! I grab a couple of mint leaves — but it's gone. It must be there somewhere. I get on hands and knees. I get a leaf in the eye. But there's nothing to be seen. I go indoors.

Then I go for another look. There it is, underneath a leaf this time. Not so fast. This time it's curtains. I creep off for a dupspan to put underneath. As he's still there when I return, I make my pincer movement. But the handle of the dupspan catches the next stem, the clump wobbles, and instantly he's down on the soil, invisible again.

Indoors again, pacing the floor, for a cup of tea. It's time for a last attempt. I steal out, with the deadly yogurt pot and this time, before you know it, it's all over. Into the pot he goes, and squish. Silence reigns among the lilies. Were they somebody's mother and father? I can't say I care. They are not native insects and the birds don't seem



The lily beetle is only the size of a woodlouse but it eats like a horse

interested in eating them. Best of all, there don't seem to be any more. I've never had an infestation here and, if I go on reaching with a sharp eye and the deployment of unreasonable force, it might remain that way.

● The lily beetle, *Liloceris lili*, is a recent pest, mainly in south-eastern Britain. Adults are active throughout spring to autumn, and the orange, black-headed grubs are seen mostly in summer. Hand-picking of both is more effective than spraying. Grubs succumb to sprays better than the adult beetles.



Slug and snail damage to a hosta

Prudent pruning: the kindest cut

The time to prune summer-flowering shrubs such as *philadelphus*, *weigela* and *deutzia* is now, when the flowers have finished. It is not at all complicated. It is really just a matter of thinning out the growth, and taking out some of the older stems.

These are shrubs which flower on "old wood" — stems that were produced the previous season.

There are several good reasons for summer pruning. Firstly, it stops the plants getting too huge. Larger varieties such as the double *Philadelphus 'Virginal'* will always want to be way over your head, but pruning will keep them to a more modest spread and reduce the area of dense shade below.

Mantau d'Hermine, on the other hand, will only ever make it to waist height at best. Without pruning, new long shoots will develop on the end of last year's long shoots, and before you know it you have a shrub without much density lower down.

Pruning also takes out the tired, flowered growth and stops the plant filling up at the centre with non-flowering wood.

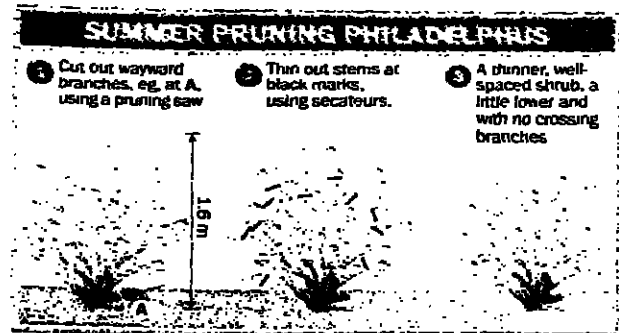
Taking out this older wood encourages long, new shoots to develop low down in the plant. It also lets warmth and sunlight into the centre, which helps the shoots to ripen so that they flower better next year.

A well-pruned *philadelphus* can be a mass of flower and perfume, from top to bottom, and will produce fine, long wands covered in flower which are excellent for picking. An old, unpruned bush will flower mostly at the top and produce billowing, mounded branches and short flowering shoots.

Deutzia will still flower well in quite considerable shade, and to a lesser degree so will *weigela*.

But both will flower better and more evenly if they are well pruned. Expect less vigorous growth and less vigorous pruning in shade.

Missing a year's pruning now and then is not the end of



the world. In a year you might notice no difference at all.

But after three or four years the plants will start to become congested and solid. Like the 23-stone maiden aunt who hogs the chair by the fire at a family party, they become intractable. The only way to get them reduced is by major intervention with a saw (I am referring to the shrubs).

All that should be needed as good for under £10, try Burgon and Ball's secateurs (Mail order only).

Before you start to cut, look at the shrub hard, and see if there are wayward branches you would like to shorten back anyway, and if one side of the plant is less dense than the other. Aim to finish with an open, well-balanced structure of even density.

Pruning consists simply of taking out perhaps 25 to 30 per cent of the flowered wood. Some of it can come out high in the plants, and some from lower down. If you are taking out two to three stems fairly low down every year on a well-established bush, then all should be well.

Some of the wood you take out high up may be straight, year-old wood. Some lower down may be older, roly-poly branches which have matured and become dense and twiggy. There is no golden rule about where to make the cuts. If there is already a suitably placed young shoot to cut back to, fine.

If the new shoot is at some silly angle and heading off into the middle of the bush, cut that out too and leave a blunt end lower down from which new shoots can begin.

These are crude plants and do not need painstaking care. Regular pruning and regular feeding will ensure that, even if you make a few mistakes along the way, there will always be a plentiful supply of new wood for the next year.

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Casa Malibu in Marbella, where Sean Connery and his wife Micheline have lived for 25 years. The house, on sale for £5.5 million, stands on the Golden Mile of residences of the rich and famous and has three guest cottages and a staff cottage

The name's Malibu, Casa Malibu



The view of the beach, all 130 metres of it, from the back of Casa Malibu's gardens

Ronald Payne takes a look around the Marbella home of Sean Connery and his wife, and finds that being a tax exile in the south of Spain is not so bad

After spending time getting, if not under the skin of a great star — the names Connery, Sean Connery — at least under that of his elegant spread in Marbella, Spain, I begin to understand the splendour and the chagrin of life at the top of moviedom. For, reluctantly, the actor has decided to sell his Spanish redoubt, Casa Malibu, for £5.5 million. And, as his wife Micheline Roquebrune comments

HOUSE OF THE WEEK

sadly, "We have no plans to buy another house in Spain at the moment." It is a splendid place, and he moved there nearly a quarter of a century ago, when Denis Healey, then Chancellor, tried to grab 98 per cent of his hard-won earnings. It was the first great symbol

of the financial success of an Edinburgh laddie born in a tenement and self-elevated through talent, hard reading and body-building. Even as I enjoyed the voyeuristic stroll through the house, the man himself was slaving away on the film *Entrapment* set in wet and windy England. His home thoughts from abroad turned, maybe wistfully, to the Mediterranean and to Micheline, as he said: "Casa Malibu was simply a calm and cheerful retreat with the best climate in the world. For Micheline and me it was a real paradise." The Connerys' main residence is now in the Bahamas and Micheline has a small apartment in London. However, for a man to quit such a residence cannot be easy.



Mr Connery with his wife cruising around the Costa del Sol

The casa is a sublime multi-hectare estate of Hispano-Californian good taste, though the advancing concrete forest of the Costa del Sol now threatens to surround it. It stands on the Golden Mile of residences of the rich and famous — King Fahd has a pad down the road. And further west is San Pedro, a more Spanish town.

It is brave to be a star ("One of the seven stars of the world," said Steven Spielberg) and live in triumph on the Mediterranean coast. But there is a price to be paid. Crawpers abound and autograph seekers swarm. Just across the low wall of the perimeter fence lies the beach, 130 metres of it, with the sparkling sea beyond. Almost alongside and within Frisbee-throwing range is Coco Beach, constantly patrolled by sunbathing "civilians" hoping for a glimpse of the great man. It was the beach that sold the place to Micheline: "I was shown an aerial shot of Casa Malibu and fell in love with it on the spot. For me it was a 'finca' on the beach."



The main living room where Micheline's paintings hang on the walls

Left, the main house's master bedroom, decorated with film awards and works of art. Above, the luxurious pool house

his arm and contributor extraordinaire to the funds of the Scottish National Party. Looking around a house in the absence of the owner is like being a detective in search of clues. What tale do the books narrate from his shelves? Mostly that although the library is not extensive, the books look as though they are read — a well-thumbed copy of John Fowles's *Daniel Martin* and a philosophical-psychological work with many marks and much underlining. Two mysteries of Casa Malibu defeated this sleuth. In Connery's office was a note saying "Age Quod Ages". And there was a book on living in Scotland. His son is already there. Is he thinking of a hero's return? Does he dream of a Republic of Scotland with himself as its first president? ● Knight Frank, 20 Hanover Square, W1R 0AH (0171-629 8171)

HOME SWAP

RISING interest rates and fears about unemployment are putting the brakes on the housing market, according to a report from the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors. More than 70 per cent of chartered surveyors it polled reported a deceleration in house price inflation. The sharpest falls were seen in the northwest, East Anglia, and London and the Southeast. It says that the downturn in house price inflation has been driven by the impact of six interest rate rises over the past 14 months and a further cut in the rate of mortgage tax relief this year, less than the RICS said. A slight rise in the number of homes being offered for sale cannot disguise the fact the market has been subdued by speculation that interest rates might rise again. This note of caution coupled with economic pressure on the labour market has made buyers think twice. New figures from the Halifax show house prices rose by 1 per cent in June. The average house now costs £72,248, 5.5 per cent more than a year ago. Despite these encouraging figures, the Halifax says the market is slowing down. There has been a fall in the number of property transactions and, compared to activity last year, house price inflation is falling. House prices in London went up 3.2 per cent in the second quarter of this year, but the annual rate continues to slow down at 11.8 per cent. At the beginning of last year, prices in London were 17.4 per cent up on the previous year. Prices are rising in Northern Ireland at 3.9 per cent, 11.6 per cent up on last year. In Wales, up 2.9 per cent and Scotland up 1.7 per cent.



This western-clad two-bedroom end-of-terrace Victorian cottage in Rectory Road, Putney, West London, will set you back £265,000. (Forsters, 0283-355 1000)



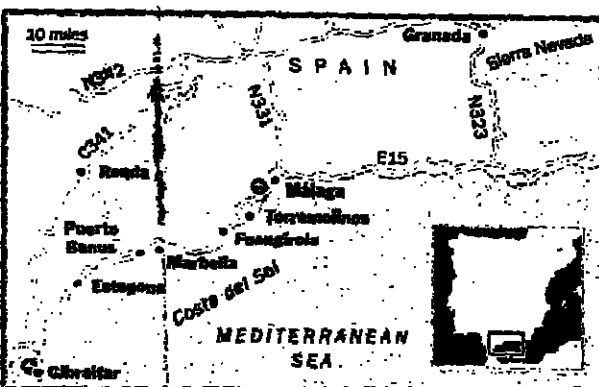
The same sum will buy the Old Rectory, the major portion of the former rectory at Wetheringsett, near Stowmarket, Suffolk. It has five bedrooms, three reception rooms and 2.5 acres of brook-fronted gardens. (Strutt & Parker, 01473 214841)



For less than £250,000 you can buy the Grade II listed 18th-century Ratcliffe House, situated in six acres, at Cyst Hydon, east Devon. It has eight bedrooms, five bathrooms and five reception rooms. It is in need of modernisation. (Fulfords, 01392 412007) CHERYL TAYLOR

MARKET COMMENT: COSTA DEL SOL

THE Costa del Sol's cheap 'n' nasty image problem of the late 1980s is a thing of the past, it seems. Under Mayor Jesus Gil, Marbella's streets have been smartened up, a bypass has been built and a radical facelift has taken place. Now, after six years of property market slump and massive over-supply, most of the half-built shells and unfinished sites from that time have been completed and sold. Indeed, the developers are back in force, building energetically in response to a healthy level of international demand. However, this time their activities are subject to strict planning control. "We even have preservation orders on trees here these days," says Cheryl Fielding, of chartered surveyor and estate agent the Fielding Partnership. As far as the British are concerned, the past 18 months has been a reflection of the buying power of sterling. Early in 1997 the peseta stood at 163 to the pound, compared with the current level of about 254, which has translated into price savings of 25-35 per cent. But you can expect to rub shoulders with Germans, Scandinavians, East Europeans and Russians as well as a good showing of Spanish second-home owners in the area.



most of the new developments are taking place in the foothills behind the town. Prices on La Zagaleta, a pretty, exclusive estate begun five years ago which will feature an 18-hole golf course, start from £300,000 for plots alone. Finished houses go for upwards of £900,000, according to Naomi Greatbanks. So far, 120 of the 400 plots have been sold, practically all within the past 18 months. Another luxury villa development, Sierra Blanca, now includes 30 or 40 properties worth about £2 million. Upmarket apartments are selling well: Ms Greatbanks gives the example of a development of 93 units with a four-year sales plan which sold out in two years. Cheryl Fielding points out, however, that it is not necessary to spend telephone numbers to pick up a decent villa or apartment, if you are prepared to sacrifice the super-smart address. Fifteen minutes' drive either side of Marbella, prices for beach-front properties fall considerably. She cites a two-bedroom beach apartment resale which recently went for £70,000, while it is possible to find good two-bedroom villa resales for less than £100,000. Naomi Greatbanks, of Knight Frank's international office, emphasises that buyers are a great deal more astute than they were in the 1980s and that while they will pay substantial sums for high quality, they will not pay over the odds. At the top of the market, front-line beach apartments in central Marbella go for from £250,000 to £500,000 for three bedrooms. However, shortage of land for redevelopment near the coast means that

SMART MOVES

JOHN PAWSON, the architect, has bought a house in Notting Hill, London W11, backing on to a communal garden. He is planning to make the Victorian house a temple to minimalism.



Mandelson: friendly

PETER MANDELSON, not content with living next door to his friend Sir Ian Wigglesworth, has been trying to get another friend to buy the house the other side of him in Bayswater, West London.

ROBERT AND SUSAN SANGSTER are re-adver-



Sangster: still trying

tising their Holland Park home for £8 million. It was on the market with Knight Frank and is now on the market with Bective Davidson, too.

The estate of BUNNY ROGERS, the designer and socialite, is being sold for more than £2 million. Durdonnel, in Western Ross, was left to Rogers's Chinese manservant.

A RUDYARD KIPLING haunt is for sale at £325,000. Prospect Cottage in Rottingdean, East Sussex, is Grade II listed.

FAITH GLASGOW

1.6001 20 1350

Celebrities have sent property prices soaring in 'London's funkiest district', says Faith Glasgow

Making a pile in Notting Hill

Would you rush to see an important new film called simply *Chingford or Stoke Newington? Not Camden Town or Islington, perhaps?*

But how about *Notting Hill*? For that is the enigmatic title of the much-heralded sequel to *Four Weddings and a Funeral*, for which filming is now well under way in W11.

And one of its leading attractions, apart from Julia Roberts and Hugh Grant, will be the chance to glimpse life in the area billed as London's funkiest district.

Notting Hill is to the 1990s what Chelsea was to the 1960s. In recent years its long-standing bohemian image has shifted along the spectrum, from rather shady and somewhat down-at-heel to highly desirable.

Witness the gorgeous array of media lovelies who are based there, including Richard Branson, Chris Evans, Mariella Frostrup and Emma Freud. Paul Smith has just opened his latest shop in Kensington Park Road. Bars and restaurants in Ledbury Road, Westbourne Grove and Kensington Park Road swarm with locally based artists, directors, producers, actors and BBC chaps.

The BBC's White City television centre is two Tube stops down the line. The record studios of Chrysalis and Virgin are about a mile away and Sarm Studios, where Elton John recorded the Diana Princess of Wales tribute version of *Carole in the Wind*, is just off Portobello Road.

A nest of media micro-businesses has spawned among Notting Hill's mews houses and conversions in their wake. The area's

magnetism for groovy film and media types lies not only in its amenities and the property choice there, but in its image and the perceived opportunities for career networking.

To what extent that cliquishness actually exists, however, is debatable.

"I've never seen much sign of it," says Andrew Ruhemann, a resident who runs his own film production company. "It's more just the idea of a media club all bumping into each other, I suspect."

Still, a benign circle is at work. The highly paid City workers, who are increasingly joining the media ranks, enjoy the buzz and the fact that their Bank and Liverpool Street offices are just a hop and a skip away on the Central Line of the Underground.

They also recognise a happening real estate market when they see one. Their bonuses have helped to fuel property price rises of up to 100 per cent which have been seen throughout the area over the past three years or so.

And their lucrative presence makes it well worth while for new businesses to move in.

However, it was not always like this. Such dynamics would have been hard to imagine ten years ago. FPO-Saville's central London Homebuyer Survey in September last year named Notting Hill as the area where buyers' perceptions have changed the most over the previous decade, with 69 per cent of those surveyed rating the location as "excellent" or "good" in 1997, compared with only 19 per cent in 1987.

Despite the grand houses and leafy settings, it is no Belgravia fallen on hard times. Although the Ladbroke Estate, with its communal

NOTTING HILL

THE TRUE STORY

Presented by **W11 PRODUCTIONS**

WITH **ROBBIE WILLIAMS** • **RUBE WAX**
RICHARD BRANSON • **CHRIS EVANS**
RIK MAYALL • **JOHN CLEESE** • **MARIELLA FROSTRUP**

gardens, was built early last century for the upper middle classes, by 1864 the area around Elgin Crescent was described in the *Building News* as one of "naked carcasses, crumbling decorations, fractured walls and slimy cement work".

The grand houses were tenemented and rented to poor tenants, often immigrants, and by the 1950s Notting Hill was the heart of the strong-arm tactics used by that notorious landlord Peter Rachman.

Even a decade ago, Notting Hill was closely linked with race riots and a bustling street trade in drugs and prostitutes. But it was also a distinctly divided area. The problems were concentrated north of the "front line" of Westbourne Park Road, especially around the Mangrove Community Centre and All Saints Road. They improved markedly

once the council shut down the centre and focused its efforts on cleaning up and developing the enclave, offering grants to attract restaurants and shops.

However, it has been a long haul back up the ladder to respectability.

Now, says Jeremy Barnard, local commercial property developer, you have to look beyond the looming shadow of the Westway flyover to streets such as Golborne Road to find the colourful, grubby bohemianism that originally characterised the heart of Notting Hill and the more affordable house prices that went with it.

For one of the key features of this elevation to smart, funky status has been rocketing house prices, which Rupert Fisher, at estate agent Foxtons, believes were sparked by the already pricey market in next-door Kensington.

"A lot of people were priced out of W8 and moved over the

border to W11," he explains. "Three years ago, property in W8 was maybe an average of £450 a square foot and in W11 it was more like £300 a square foot. Now those prices would be £600 and £500 respectively. The gap has closed."

For example, he points to a two-bedroom flat in Stanley Gardens, with access to communal gardens, which is on the market for £550,000.

Dick Ford, at Knight Frank estate agents, reports that the gentrification of the area has turned the southern side more or less into an extension of Kensington.

"Between 1995 and 1998, Notting Hill prices have roughly doubled," he reckons.

"We sold a house in Kensington Park Gardens in 1995 for £1.2 million and it would be worth about £2.5 million today. People are terribly keen on the communal gardens

because their children can play there and be secure."

However, such prices and considerations are the privilege of City bankers and lawyers rather than BBC minions and aspiring actors, no matter how high their ambitions.

Westbourne Grove used to be dominated by antique trade showrooms. But it was perfect for shops and is now seen as having one of the highest rental growths of any high street in Britain.

"It used to be known as Westbourne Grove in the early 1990s, but now it's Westbourne Grove," Mr Ruhemann concurs.

The biggest sign for me was the building of the public loo outside Tom's Delicatessen [part of the Conran empire] on Westbourne Grove. It is architecturally handsome and well looked after.

"It was also a symbol of the times changing for Notting Hill."

Nowadays, therefore, Westbourne Grove represents a new borderline: head north of it if you are looking for the street raffishness which Notting Hill's name still conjures up. But you will have to head further still to see property prices at a more manageable level.

Shops and restaurants have played a significant role in the rejuvenation process, although it is extremely hard to work out which came first, customers or opportunities.

Mr Barnard points out that while residential price became

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CHANGING TIMES

Britain's tiniest des res?

This spatially challenged home could land you in the record books, writes Rachel Kelly

Sandy Fagan outside her miniature home, Eastgate Lodge in Grimestone Park

Eastgate Lodge, in Grimestone Park, near York, is extremely small. A mere 121 square feet, this stone house is so small it could be the tiniest des res in the country, Stephen Middleton, from the agents Middleton Marketing which is marketing the house in Harrogate, says: "We believe it is the smallest house. No one so far has claimed the title for any other property."

Mindful of the 1991 Property Misdescriptions Act, which requires agents to be truthful and to be able to prove their claims, the selling agent, Renton & Parr based in Wetherby in West Yorkshire, is more circumspect.

The Grade II listed building consists of a single room above ground, with a platform above the front door which has room for a double bed. The rest of the "house" - an open-plan sitting area, with a kitchen to one side overlooking a sunken patio and a tiny bathroom all lit by a skylight - is built underground and reached via a spiral staircase.

For the purposes of its claims to size, the house is taken to include only the ground-floor room - somewhat conveniently for Mr Middleton's claims. But even this is larger than the smallest house according to *The Guinness Book of Records*, which names a 19th-century fisherman's cottage in Conwy, Wales, with a total floor area of 50 square feet.

If Eastgate is judged a detached house, it is in with a chance, says Clive Carpenter from *The Guinness Book of Records*. "The Conwy property lies at the end of a terrace while Eastgate Lodge is detached. I would be interested in any information about Eastgate Lodge. We would be keen to start a smallest-detached-house category." The house belongs to Sandy Fagan, an art and design graduate who has been living there for the past eight months. The house was converted five years ago when its listed status meant there was no hope of adding a conservatory to increase the leg-room.

Ms Fagan and her partner have been using the house as a second home, but have now decided to sell for £69,000 as her Labrador can no longer manage the stairs and she is too busy to continue working on the property.

"It could be for a single person, or a holiday pied-à-terre," she says, "or for an intimate couple. If they aren't intimate when they come, they will be after living here for a bit."

house does not suffer from the usual blight of gatehouses by being on the main road. Although it does mark the entrance to Grimestone Park, near Tadcaster, it is hidden down a mile-long private road and shares the tranquillity of the acres of parkland that surround it.

Built in 1842, Eastgate Lodge was created as part of renovations to Grimestone Park. The mansion and its grounds were renovated by Decimus Burton for the second Lord Howden when he inherited it after his father's death in 1830. Lord Londeshorough bought it in 1850 and the Duke of Wellington stayed there when he was on his way to becoming a free-man of the city of York.

The most eye-catching feature of the house is the life-sized stone knight kneeling on the roof. This is partly what inspired Ms Fagan to transform Eastgate Lodge into a habitable abode, making a striking contrast with the delicate matching lodge over the drive.

Her seven-month project centred on the expansion of floor space and the introduction of mirrors and pastel colours to create the impression of more light and space. Ms Fagan describes it as "a magical place. It is so unusual, beautiful, quiet and peaceful".

The front door leads straight into the sleeping area. The mezzanine floor has recently been slightly expanded to fit square to accommodate a double bed. There is also a wardrobe and a fireplace. A wrought-iron spiral staircase leads to the lower ground-floor sitting area.

There are imaginative decorative touches. The entrance to the bathroom is marked by an arch and the Victorian-style iron roll-top bath has claw feet. The bathroom was half of an underground passage between the two lodge buildings which is now bricked up.

Additional research by Zara Bishop

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United in diversity

Ruth Gledhill joins the multilingual Lambeth Conference



BISHOPS' jaws dropped visibly and some cheeks reddened to match their pink cassocks as the dancing girls sashayed down the aisle and into the nave, wriggling in style beneath white, flowing angel-wing costumes. This was a gospel dance and the inspiration came from Panama. "Very authentic", one smiling, blushing bishop told me afterwards. What few realised was that this was a secular dance troupe, Latin Arts Services, from south London, hired for the occasion, although many of the girls did confess to being Roman Catholics.

The contrast between the previous service to open a Lambeth Conference could not have been greater. In 1988, 500 bishops turned up in Canterbury for a mainstream, Church of England eucharist. Ten years later, nearly 800 bishops were back in Canterbury, in the presence of the Prince of Wales, for a service celebrated according to the Kenyan rite. Bishops and archbishops, dressed in a variety of bright colours, heard prayers and readings in Portuguese, Arabic and French.

There were prayers in English by a woman bishop, the Right Rev Chilton Knudsen of Maine, America, and one of 11 women bishops at the conference, for the first time. Dr George Carey, the Archbishop of Canterbury, addressed them in Swahili, and there were many foreign tongues as each bishop said simultaneously the Lord's Prayer in their own language.

But let there be no mistake. I was advised by a "spin doctor" of the 80-million strong worldwide Anglican church. This was not a modern-day Tower of Babel, but simply the Anglican

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AFTER-SERVICE CARE: Cups of tea
 ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

community celebrating its "diversity" in style.

The following day, Cardinal Edward Cassidy, of the Roman Catholic Church's council for Christian unity, warned the conference of the serious consequences of ecumenism if "diversity and differences that cannot be reconciled to the gospel are at the same time being embraced and exalted."

Three days later, the conference was to split down the middle over the issue of homosexuality. But for now, unity was complete.

Delegates are studying St Paul's second letter to the Corinthians, known in the church as the "leadership under pressure" letter. This "speaks about episcopacy in times of crisis and leadership in the midst of struggle," said Bishop Chwanga.

"A church that harbours bitterness, anger and disharmony is distorting its image of a living gospel and may be on the road to decay."

● Canterbury Cathedral (01227 762562)



Prince Charles at the conference's opening service

Listen to the wedding bells

If the institution of marriage is to survive, says Brian Brindley, divorce should more difficult

It is good news that the Government is looking for ways to enhance the status of the institution of marriage. Civil ceremonies may become more traditional and couples may be required to undergo some form of training for marriage.

According to the law of England, marriage is the voluntary union—for life—of one man and one woman to the exclusion of all others. This is the only legal definition of marriage by a State which itself marries people in register offices and dissolves marriages in its courts. In the traditional Prayer Book service of Holy Matrimony the definition is couched a little more quaintly: "for better for worse" "for richer or poorer", "forsaking all other", "till death us do part".

Despite such archaic language, the leaders of the various Christian churches may permit themselves a wry smile, for it is the Churches that have, in the past 50 years, courted unpopularity by standing up for the age-old doctrines of marriage, while the State has seemed happy to whittle them away.

Twenty years ago, when I was a member of the General Synod for the Church of England, I found myself serving on a committee to revise the language of the old Prayer Book service. We took great pains to ensure that, in changing the language, we did not change the doctrine.

A few years later, by a strange contrast, I was on a working party considering the circumstances in which the Church might marry for a second time those whose marriages had been dissolved but whose spouses were still living. How to combine understanding for them with witness to the Church's unchanging teaching? The considerations were so complex that in the end the whole proposal was rejected by the dioceses—the Church still stands

accused of hardness of heart (and, worse still, so does the individual pastor) every time a second marriage is refused for the sake of upholding the sanctity of marriage.

I have officiated at the weddings of many couples over the years and I have tried to make sure that they understood exactly what it was that they were getting into: the look on my face during the service was once described as "When I join people in marriage, gosh darn it, they stay joined". (Without any hard statistics or evidence, I believe I have had a good "success" rate.)

Most couples come to the altar in the utmost good faith, intending to keep their marriage vows, and to keep them for life. It is only when things begin to go wrong that they start to think their marriage may have been temporary after all. We instinctively believe that marriage is indissoluble until we come up against difficulties in our lives, or those of our family and

friends, when we allow the heart to take over from the head.

Because monogamous marriage is such an ordinary thing, we are inclined to think that it needs no special effort or protection. In truth, it is a difficult vocation, and all the support of Church and State is needed to save it from the stresses and strains which inevitably break up casual relationships. We are all involved: we may not be married, but we are all children. The happiness or unhappiness of our parents' relationship with each other has a profound effect upon us all.

I was lucky enough to come from a happy home: my parents quarrelled often enough, but it never occurred to them to break up the family. I have the utmost sympathy for those who do not share my fortunate background. It is time to turn back the clock, to reinstate the special status once given to marriage in our society, even at the cost of some disadvantage to those who have chosen,

or have had wished upon them, some other way.

For Straw, the Home Secretary, is reported as wishing to reverse the trend under which civil marriages have become shorter and more perfunctory. Is it not shocking to learn that a registrar can conduct a ceremony in four minutes, and with, presumably, only routine preparation? No wonder if a union so casually entered into is regarded as a bare contract, to be escaped from at any time and in any circumstances.

No priest I have encountered would ever spend less than three hours, on various occasions, with any couple who came to him for a wedding: some would devote much more time. If registrars are, as is hinted, to be urged to devote time to preparing couples for marriage, then they will need special training, and strict guidelines. One way or another, their time will have to be paid for.

Most of all, if the status of marriage is to be enhanced, it is the easy availability of divorce that will have to be tackled. Those who hear the civil authorities insisting that marriage is "for life" may be excused for not taking it seriously when they consider how readily the State allows divorce. No politician would ever dream of saying he was Against Marriage, but Mr Straw is the first for many decades to accept the hardness and the unpopularity that come from being For Marriage. For too long the archbishops, bishops and clergy have been in the firing line on this matter: they will welcome the co-operation of the State.

● Brian Brindley was a priest of the Church of England for more than 30 years, many of them as vicar of Holy Trinity, Reading. He also served on the General Synod in 1995. He became a Roman Catholic.



Thrice-married Martin Bell with his new wife Fiona

My portrait of the artist as a Christian man

condition already and it is a sickness in our life and witness.

High Church and Low Church traditions have erred in different directions.

The elaborate decorative strategies of the High road have often relied on the patronage of the self-aggrandising rich. Their monumental ambitions leave a legacy of churches as museums, filled with stained-glass Aryan Christs and kitsch Madonnas.

The Low road has left the walls bare while perfecting a crude utilitarian view of art in evangelism as the spoonful of sugar that helps



the medicine go down. Its productions are more temporary but their blend of banality and cliché spreads with frightening ease through charismatic evangelical culture.

Like many people, I am suspicious of the idea that there is such a thing as Christian art. But I am equally



wary of the romantic notion of art as an autonomous area of human activity which needs no justification.

While I deplore our failure in the Church to offer appropriate pastoral support to artists, we should equally debunk self-indulgent approaches to personal ethics which might be passed off as "the artistic life". Artists need to be good parents and faithful wives and husbands just as much as accountants or bricklayers do.

My hope that things can be different has been sustained by events such as the Greenbelt Arts Festival, which has brought together

Christian (and non-Christian) artists for the past 24 years on the August Bank Holiday weekend.

Alternately dismissed as a "pop festival" by the highbrow, and disapproved of as "too radical" by conservatives within the Church, it survives in near penury to provoke a Christian vision for the arts in Church and society.

Greenbelt has helped me see that a Church which valued, supported and included artists would be a Church which had the courage to see, hear, touch, taste and smell the world as the body of Christ. It would find in the biblical examples of lyricism, polemic parody, satire, eroticism and prophecy, the inspiration it needs to encounter life and express faith with a fullness of expression.

It would make room in the congregation of the faithful for risk, beauty and protest—and the odd splash of paint.

● Doug Gay is Minister of Clapton Park United Reformed Church in Hackney, East London. He is a Board Member of Greenbelt Festival.

EXCLUSIVE COMPETITION THE TIMES

WIN A TRIP FOR TWO TO MALAYSIA AND SEE THE COMMONWEALTH GAMES



Today The Times has teamed up with Malaysia Airlines and Shangri-La Hotels and Resorts to offer readers the chance to win a holiday for two to attend the Commonwealth Games between September 17 and 25. (Trials are being held in Birmingham this weekend.)

The winner receives tickets to the athletics and closing ceremony in Kuala-Lumpur and enjoy the traditional charm of Malaysia Airlines' twice-daily flights from Heathrow. The prize includes: return business class air travel from London to Kuala-Lumpur; seven nights' luxury hotel accommodation courtesy of Shangri-La Hotels and Resorts; airport taxes.

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 Simply send your name, address and daytime telephone number on a postcard to: The Times Commonwealth Games Competition (Dept A), PO Box 121, London SE20 8ZQ to arrive by Friday August 14, 1998. If you do not wish to receive information related to athletics in the future, please mark this on your entry. Normal TNL competition rules apply. Accommodation is on a room-only basis. No ground transfers are included. Travel insurance is the responsibility of the competition winner.

● For further details of offers for two or more people travelling to Malaysia or beyond in October or November, write to: Malaysia Airlines (Pst SC27) 247-249, Cromwell Road, London SW5 9GA.



Church services tomorrow

- Seventh Sunday after Trinity**
ARMAGH CATHEDRAL: 10 HC; 11 M. Laud and Lord (West); 3:15 EP.
BANGOR CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9:45 Cymun Bendigaid; 11 Euch; 5 Gosber.
BELFAST CATHEDRAL: 11 S Euch, View me Lord (Lloyd); 3:30 Ch E.
BIRMINGHAM CATHEDRAL: 9 MP; 9:15 HC; 11 Ch Euch, Stainer in A; 4 Ch E. Brewer in D; Responses (Smith).
BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9:15 M; 10:30 Euch, Mass of the quiet hour (Oldroyd); Canon Gallie; 4 Ch E.
BRECON CATHEDRAL: 8; 11 Euch, Summison in F; Canon B Jones; 3:30 E. Stanford in C; A; Laud in M; Eucharist and (Green).
BRISTOL CATHEDRAL: 7:40 M; 8 HC; 10 Ch Euch, Harwood in A flat; Ave verum (Byrd). The Dean; 3:30 Ch E. Smart in B flat.
CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9:30 M; 11 S Euch, Mass of the quiet hour (Oldroyd); Canon Gallie; 4 Ch E. Laud in M; Eucharist and (Green).
CARLISLE CATHEDRAL: 7:45 M; 8 HC; 10:30 S Euch, O most merciful (Wood); 3 EP.
CHELMSFORD CATHEDRAL: 7:30 MP; 8 HC; 9:30 Euch, Canon D Knight; 11:15 Euch; 3 Provincial grand lodge services 6 E. Ch E. Laud in M; Eucharist and (Green).
CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 Ch Euch, Mozart in D. If ye love me (Tallis); 11:30 M, Hymn of St Columba (Britten); 3:30 E. Stanford in G; 6:30 ES. Jesu joy of man's desiring (Bach); Canon O Conway.
CHURCH CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M; Stanford in B flat; Rev J McKeown; 11 S Euch, Mass for four voices (Byrd); 3:30 E. CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL, Dublin: 11 S Euch, Missa brevis (Palestrina); Deo (Haydn); 3:30 Ch E. Harris in A. CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL, Oxford: 8 HC; 10 Canon Mayr-Harding; 11 S Euch, Missa quatuor vocalium (Victoria); E. Summison in A.
COVENTRY CATHEDRAL: 7:40 MP; 8 HC; 10:30 Euch, Missa brevis (Palestrina), Rev C Kennedy; 3 Coronation Anthem; 5 Ch E.
DURHAM CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M; Stanford in C; Canon D Whittington; 11:15 HC, Messe solennelle (Langlais); Canon T Williams; 3:30 E. Balfour in D.
ELY CATHEDRAL: 8:15 HC; 10:30 S Euch, Mozart in D; Canon J Inge; 11:15 M; 3:45 Festival E. Magdalen college service (Leighton).
EXETER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9:45 S Euch, Missa quatuor vocalium (Victoria); Rev G Daxor; 3 E. A. Salve regina (Cavalli); 6:30 ES, Canon A Mawson.
GLOUCESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10:15 Euch, Mass of the quiet hour (Oldroyd); 3 E. Noble in B minor.
GUILDFORD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9:45 Euch, Missa aeterna Christi murena (Palestrina); Rev J Gordon Clark; 11:30 W. Stanford in B flat; 6:30 E. Noble in B minor.
HEREFORD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 Euch, Darke in F; 11:30 M; 3:30 E. Stanford in G; Præbendary; 11:30 W. Stanford in B flat; 6:30 E. Noble in B minor.
LEICESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M; 10:30 Euch, A. Ave verum corpus (Elgar); Marche triomphale (Lemmens); 4 EP.
LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10:30 S Euch, Mozart in C; Preliminary T Thalke; 3:30 E. Stanford in G; 6:30 E. Noble in B minor.
LINCOLN CATHEDRAL: 8:45 HC; 7:45 L; 8 HC; 9:30 S Euch, Canterbury ruse (Pocock); 11:15 M, Stanford in B flat; 12:30 HC; 3:45 E. Willan in B flat, Responses (Byrd).
LIVERPOOL CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10:30 Euch, Canon N Vincent; 3 Ch E. The Dean of Liverpool; 4 HC.
MANCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8:45 M; 9 NOVIWICH CATHEDRAL: 7:30 MP; 8 HC; 10:30 S Euch, Vaughan Williams in D minor; 3:30 E. Darke in A minor, Archdeacon of Norfolk; 3:30 E. Blair in B minor; 6:30 Euch of healing.
NEWCASTLE CATHEDRAL: 9:30 M, Sunston in G; 10:30 Euch, Little organ mass (Haydn); 3:30 E. Watson in E.
PORTSMOUTH CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9:30 Euch, Mass of St Thomas (Thorpe); Canon G Kirk; 8 Euch; 6:30 E. E. Ripon CATHEDRAL: 8; 9:30 Euch, Missa secunda (Hassler); Rev D Murrill; 11:30 M, Written in G; 12:30 Euch; 3:30 E. A. Jesu the very thought of thee (Pier).
ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9:45 M, Responses (Tanner); 10:30 S Euch, Missa sine nomine (Hassler); Venerable G Norman; 3:15 E. Stanford in G; 6:30 E. Salisbury CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 Euch, Darke in F; Canon J Osborne; 11:30 M, Collegium regale (Howells); 3 Ch E, O elegerunt (Howells); 6:30 E. (Parry).
SHEFFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 MP; 10:30 S Euch, Ave verum corpus (Willis); Canon S Sinclair; 6:30 E. Long in F.
SOUTHWELL CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 Ch Euch, Messe solennelle (Rugman); 3 Ch E. Fauvourdon (Morley).
SOUTHWELL MINSTER: 7:30 M & L; 8 HC; 9:30 S Euch, Canticum in A minor; Rev R G Handford; 3:15 E. A. The Lord has been mindful of us (Wesley).
TURRO CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9; 9; 10 S Euch, Ubi caritas (Durufle); 6 E. St Paul's Service (Howells); 6:30 E. (Parry).
WAKEFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9:15 C; 11 Sol Euch, Canon R Gage; 6:30 E.
WELLS CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9:45 S Euch, Canticum regale (Howells); 11:30 M; 3 E. Christ Church service (Webster).
WESTMINSTER ABBEY: 8 HC; 10 M; Stanford in B flat; 11:15 S Euch, Poulenc in G major; Sister H Markey; 3 E. Cambridge service (Moore); Rev N Strong; 5:45 Organ recital; James Buonamanti; 6:30 ES.
WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL: 7; 8 & 9 WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M, Collegium regale (Howells); Canon C Stewart; 11:15 S Euch, Vaughan Williams in G minor; 3:30 NHS service; 5:30 E.
ST ALBAN'S CATHEDRAL, Hertfordshire: 8 HC; 9:30 Euch; 11 M, Stanford in B flat; 12:15 HC; 6:30 E. Noble in B minor.
ST ASAPH CATHEDRAL, Denbighshire: 8 HC; 11 Ch Euch, Ave verum corpus (Elgar); 3:30 EP.
ST DAVIDS CATHEDRAL, Pembrokeshire: 7:30 MP; 8 HC; 9:30 Cymun Bendigaid; 11:15 Ch Euch, Ave verum corpus (Mozart); Rev L Richardson; 6 Ch E. Brewer in E flat; Jesu dulcis memoria (Sheppard).
ST EDMUNDSBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 S Euch, Mozart in G; 11:45 HC; 3:30 Ch E. Collegium regale (Wood).
ST FIN BARRE'S CATHEDRAL: 8 Euch; 11 S Ch Euch, Mass for five voices (Byrd); 7 Ch E. Collegium regale (Howells).
ST GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL, SE1: 8; 10 LM; 11:30 Sol Mass; 6 LM.
ST GILES' CATHEDRAL, Edinburgh: 8; 10 S Euch, Mass of the quiet hour (Oldroyd); Canon Gallie; 4 Ch E. Laud in M; Eucharist and (Green).
ST MACHAR'S CATHEDRAL, Old Aberdeen: 8 HC; 9:30 Euch, Mass of the quiet hour (Oldroyd); Canon Gallie; 4 Ch E. Laud in M; Eucharist and (Green).
ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL, Edinburgh: 8 Euch; 10:30 S Euch, LMissa in simplicitate (Langlais); 3:30 Ch E. The Washington School (Howells); 6:30 E. (Parry).
ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL, Dublin: 8:30 Euch; 11:15 S Euch, Very Rev Dr M Stewart; 3:15 Ch E. Sunston in G.
ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL, EC4: 8 HC; 10 M, Wood in E; Rev J M Paul; 11:30 S Euch, Messe cum jubilo (Durufle); Venerable W Jacob; 2:30 Wreath-laying service; 3:15 E. Naylor in D; 5 Organ recital; Anne Marsden Thomas; 6 ES, Rev S Oliver.
ST WOOLOS CATHEDRAL, Newport: 8 Euch; 10:30 M, Responses (Ferial); 6:10 S Euch, Ave verum corpus (Mozart).
SOUTHARK CATHEDRAL, SW7: 10:30 Divine Liturgy, Kievan and traditional polyphony, Met Anthony.
ALL SAINTS, WE: 8 LM; 10:20 MP; 11 HM, recital in G; Rev M Ingham; 5:15 LM; 6 E & B. The Vicar.
ALL SOULS, WE: 9:30, 11:30 MP, Rev Dr J Stone; 6:30 EP, Rev R Tice.
THE ASSUMPTION, WI: 11 Missa douce menestre (Lassus).
CHELSEA OLD CHURCH, SW3: 8 HC; 10 Children's Service; 11 M; 12:15 HC; 6 E. CROWN COURT CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, WC2: 11:15 Rev S Hood; 6:30. FARM STREET, WI: 9; 9:30 LM; 11 HM, Sembrant in B, Ave Maria (Rossini); 12:30 LM; 4:15 Mass; 6:15 LM.
ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH, WE: 11 Holy Mass, Archbishop Y Ghizirian.
ROYAL HOSPITAL, CHELSEA, SW3: 11 M, Sacra in D minor, Responses (Sandström); St Anne's Feast (Howells); Canon P Goodie.
WESLEY'S CHAPEL, EC2: 9:45 HC, Rev Dr G K Barritt; 11 MS.
WESTMINSTER CENTRAL HALL, (Methodist); 11 MS, Rev E Fletcher; 6:30 EP.
ST ANNE AND ST AGNES (Lutheran), Gresham St, EC2: 11 Ch Euch, Rev P D Schmiege; 7 Bach Mass, Missa brevis in A.

● Compiled by Deborah King.

The larger boys began by shouting rudely at the stage, but ended up engrossed'

Treading the slippery boards

We're having problems with a giant carrot this year," says Anthony Richards. "It's made of sponge, so whenever we get rained on it soaks up water and becomes heavier than you can possibly imagine. Each time I have to pick it up I think 'Oh God! This is going to stop water all over me.' I hope the audience doesn't realize how unpleasant the carrot is, because in the play I'm supposed to be delighted with it."

Until I talked to Anthony, I hadn't realized how tough this wet summer was proving for innovative theatre companies specialising in outdoor performances. He is artistic director of The Common Players, which is based in Exeter and spends June, July and August touring Devon, putting on free shows.

The evening I caught up with the company, it had set up its stage on the edge of a playing field. All around it small boys were kicking footballs and riding bicycles, and there were knots of sultry teenagers listening to ghetto-blasters. As the sky began to darken ominously and the wind got up, The Company Players' performance began.

The play is a fast-moving, topical farce written by Cathy Turner about an organic farmer who's tempted by the devil into growing monster vegetables. Anthony, playing the devil, had to grow a neat, Mephistophelean goat for the role, which he dislikes — but it's easier than using spirit gum. He's already having difficulties with his horns, which keep falling off at odd moments.

I was startled to learn how dangerous acting out-of-doors could be. The rain makes ladders and poles slippery, the stage has been known to collapse, and a few weeks ago someone forgot to put ropes inside the trapdoor Anthony hurled himself down in the final scene, and he fell on his head. "I had to reappear immediately as a singing tomato and I couldn't remember the words of my song."

The company has learned, through bitter experience to avoid yellow costumes.

"Biting insects love yellow. My poor friend Simon had to wear a yellow costume one year and horseflies and midges followed him around in a haze."

My first impression was that The Common Players had set themselves an unbelievably difficult task: they not only have to put up with extreme discomfort, living out of damp tents all summer, but they're trying to attract people who don't necessarily like theatre and they're doing it where the audience can escape if it gets bored.

Stray dogs, drunks and hecklers make

DOWN TO EARTH



LUCY PINNEY

the task even harder. "The rule is, don't give a hostile person any attention," says Anthony. "You just have to get on with the show, and eventually they give up and go away."

The evening I was there the crowd control looked effortless. About 60 people ended up watching the show, mostly stout, exhausted-looking adults, grumpy toddlers and wildly-excited pre-teens. The larger boys at the front began by shouting rudely and trying to grapple with the tomato, but ended up engrossed. Even a sustained drizzle didn't put them off.

The plot had regular shocks to keep them in place: just after the interval, when the odd toddler had begun asking plaintively if it was nearly over, one of the actors pretended to pee off the stage. There were fights, too, life-like vomit, cleverly-staged explosions and suggestive Richard-and-Judy jokes for the grown-ups. At the very end, the actors coaxed the naughtiest onlookers into performing a girly circle-dance: a brilliant demonstration of how to hold an audience in the palm of your hand.

The techniques for accomplishing all this were learned the hard way. The company began ten years ago with a grant of £500. That first season they took no pay and toured in a van so derelict that farmers assumed they were hippy travellers and refused to let them park anywhere. They had to

sleep seven to a four-man tent and were so inefficient at drawing audiences that they often played to "three men and a dog". Anthony remembers a TV actor who toured with them in the early days frantically ringing his agent from every village phone-box they passed.

Nowadays the company has lottery funding to perform indoors in the spring and autumn, and they could give up the outdoor work altogether. They're reluctant to, though the financial backing is uncertain. The emotional rewards are so great in the remotest, wildest Devon villages their performance sometimes draws the whole community together.

Anthony likes the uncertainty of outdoor performances, too. "Why should theatre always be a refined, aesthetic experience which is terribly safe?" he asks.

It seems he didn't altogether dislike the bad weather, either. He sounded almost wistful as he described a performance at Uplowman: "The audience couldn't see this tempest sweeping in behind them. We had to say 'Ladies and gentlemen, we are going to pause for a moment. If you turn around you'll see why!'"

Can the coraclemen survive?

The salmon crisis could kill off a Welsh tradition, writes Alan Road



With dwindling sewin catches making it too expensive for coraclemen to go out, traditional boat makers like Eustace Rodger could disappear forever

Jonathan Rees reckons he was born too late. In 20 outings on the River Towy during the past six weeks the coracleman has caught just three sewin.

The 35-year-old enthusiast, who is one of only five fishermen licensed to trawl these waters in their historic craft, was reared on stories of the Sixties, when this stretch of river was teeming with sea trout.

Now the situation is so bad that seven of the 12 fishermen entitled to operate with nets at Carmarthen in Wales have not taken up their licences. They cost a basic £389 and, with fish stock at an all-time low, what was once a full-time occupation and later a lucrative sideline has now become an expensive hobby.

Working in pairs with their nets stretched between them, the coraclemen glide downstream like bugs on the surface of a pond. Licence-holders paddle in tandem with shillingmen, so called because it once cost a shilling to add their names to the document.

Coracles were recorded by Julius Caesar and were seen here in the 12th century by Welsh travel writer Giraldus Cambrensis. A century ago 400 coraclemen fished the Towy and the craft is on Carmarthen's coat of arms. But its survival outside theme parks or heritage centres seems to be under a cloud shaped like a bureaucrat's hand.

The coraclemen have no doubt that the architect of

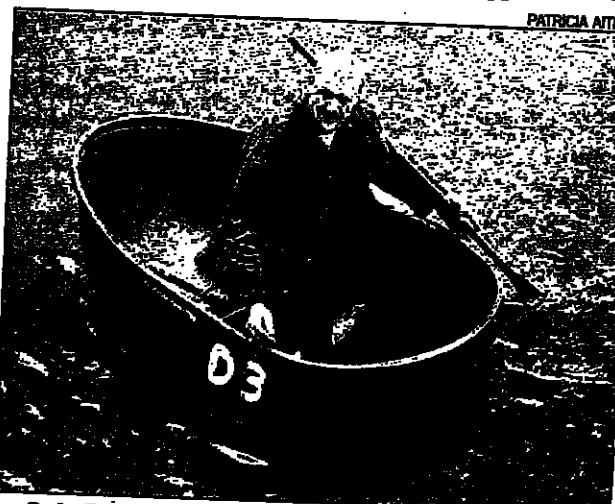
their misfortune is the Environment Agency which, they believe, would be only too happy for them to hoist their craft on to their backs and disappear like some species of noxious snail.

Not satisfied with increasing the cost of licences, the authority has shortened the

traditional six-month season by banning fishing in August and heaped various minor regulations on their shoulders.

Former coracleman Raymond Rees is a fishmonger and so can speak from 50 years' experience on both sides of the operation.

These days he buys all the



Only five coraclemen are still fishing the River Towy

sea trout he needs from Hull and Grimsby.

"Where I would once buy 500lb of sewin a week from the coraclemen, I'd now be lucky to get 5lb," he says.

He agrees the responsibility for this sad state of affairs rests squarely with the agency. "They are only interested in the profits that can be got from the river," he says.

When the Towy was dammed to provide water for nearby Swansea, the locals were assured that the quality of the river and fish stocks would be maintained. A quarter of a century later, Mr Rees claims that banks of wood, where once submerged now protrude like islands, the acidity of water released from the bottom of the dam is so high that sewin eggs cannot survive.

"The sea trout will have spawned, in tributaries not affected by the dam," he says.

By singling out netmen, the agency is seen to be doing something positive but inexpensive while placating the anglers, who form a powerful lobby, Mr Rees says.

Conservationists, anxious for the long-term future of salmon and sea trout, argue that the coracleman is one predator too many.

"Critics have to explain how fish stocks were higher in the Sixties when there were far more coracle nets in use," Mr Rees retorts. "In my heyday I have caught more fish in a week than the coraclemen have caught all season."

If coracle fishermen do quit the Towy, a centuries-old tradition will vanish. "My grandfather and his grand-

father knew that they enjoyed a privilege not shared by the King of England: the right to catch salmon with a net," says Mr Rees. They guarded this right with the zeal of a medieval guild.

When they were no longer fit for use, coracles were burnt on the river bank as a sacrifice to the gods. Fishermen still observe many ancient rituals such as the drawing of numbered brass discs from a hat to decide their positions on the river. By tradition they do not take to the water until seven stars can be seen in the sky.

"People may laugh, but it has stood the test of time," says Mr Rees. In practical terms it means that it is sufficiently dark for the fish not to see their nets.

On good nights a pair might fish till sunrise without a

word. At the end of each turn both men trudge back up river with their coracles on their backs and repeat the exercise as many as a dozen times.

Coracles are made to measure for their owners. Their irregular contours resemble the submerged section of swans. Once they were made of hides or calico stretched over ash laths and coated with pitch, but now are more likely to be moulded in fibreglass.

Jonathan Rees does not come from one of the town's coracle families, but has the enthusiasm of a convert. "If I take a night off, I'm wondering all the while if this could be the time the fish are there," he admits.

At the end of the month he will reluctantly consign his coracle to the quayside shed until the new season next March. How many of his companions will think it worthwhile to join him then is anybody's guess.

FEATHER REPORT

Lookout for a cuckoo

HELLO! Cuckoo! Is there a cuckoo out there? A contributor to *Country Life*, David Tomlinson, thinks there is not. He believes that folklorists and ornithologists are both wrong about when the cuckoos leave our islands for Africa.

The old rhyme about the cuckoo goes:

In June I change my tune
In July I'm ready to fly
In August go I must

Similarly, the learned handbook, *Birds of the Western Palearctic*, states: "Southern autumn migration begins early August, earlier in adults than juveniles". But Mr Tomlinson says that he never sees a cuckoo in August or even in late July.

He believes that they nearly all leave by early July, and that the cuckoo could more correctly be described as a "spring migrant" to Britain than as a "summer migrant".

So are there any cuckoos out there now? They are elusive birds and are actually observed very little on migration. They turn up in Africa in August with very few people having seen them in southern Europe on their journey.

So have they been lurking about in the woods in Britain in July, largely unobserved, and waiting to go in the next few days? Or did they all slip away weeks ago? I would be interested to hear from readers who have any observations on this matter.

If the cuckoo is in fact a "spring migrant" it is unique among the birds that come up from the south in April or May. Even the swift, which is generally considered the first to depart, is around in numbers until August.

But the cuckoo is a bizarre bird altogether. Everybody knows that cuckoos lay their eggs in other birds' nests and that the young cuckoo heaves its foster-parents' natural eggs or offspring on to the ground so that it gets their exclusive attention.

Precisely what the female cuckoo does is less well known. She may stake out a territory of her own, but she does not have a regular mate. Male cuckoos trail her through the woods and she chooses which to mate

with. When she is looking for nests to lay in she will conceal herself by lying lengthways along a branch.

She registers the progress of all the hedge-sparrows' nests around her if her territory is in woodland or farmland, or all the meadow pipits' nests in moorland. (Other regular victims are reed warblers and robins.) Then, when a host bird is ready to start incubating, she glides down, takes an egg or two out and eats them for the calcium in their shells, and lays a single egg of her own to take their place.

She will even destroy the nest of a potential host so that it will breed again and make a nest available for her when she is ready.

The young cuckoo is just as ruthless, and does not hesitate to get rid of its rivals in the nest. As long as they are still there, calling for food, it makes as much noise as all the rest of them put together. When it is strong enough it uses its back to push them — or any unhatched eggs — up the side of the nest, and topple them over the edge.

The cuckoo's eating habits are also unusual. It is practically the only British bird that will eat hairy or woolly caterpillars, and it disgorges pellets of their hair when it has digested them. If it picks up a rolled-up caterpillar, it will shake it until it straightens out before it swallows it.

Cuckoos are not hard to recognise. They are large, grey-blue, hawk-like birds, with long, rounded tails, and they fly with their wings kept below the horizontal. The young fledglings are barred, brown birds as large as their parents. Look out for them, and let me know if you see one!

DERWENT MAY

● What's about Birders: look out for juvenile black-headed gulls and common terns confusing brown, grey and white plumage. Twickers: black stork, Munlochy Bay, Highland; red-necked phalarope, Titchwell, Norfolk; alpine swift, Spurn, East Yorkshire. Details from Birdline, 0891 700222. Calls cost 50p a minute.



Cuckoo are elusive birds, rarely seen on migration

READER OFFER THE TIMES

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CHANGING TIMES

ENGLISH CHANNEL

JERSEY ZOO
GOREY VILLAGE
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ON THE SPOT: CHANNEL ISLANDS

The place: Mont Orgueil Castle, Gorey. The view: the castle looks over the sandy beach of Royal Bay of Grouville and La Rocque. On a clear day you can see the French coast 12 miles away and the spires of Coutances Cathedral.

Historical interest: the exact age of the date 5,000 years is unknown and could range from the Neolithic period. Originally, the Channel Islands were part of Normandy but this changed around 1200 when King Philippe Augustus invaded the region. A few years later, in retaliation, King John of England built a fortress on Mont Orgueil (Mount Pride). During the French

Revolution a pro-royalist secret service operated from the castle and during the occupation of the Channel Islands extra look-out posts were installed. How to get there: take No. 1 bus to Gorey Pier or park at Gorey Harbour. OS ref: 716/503 on States of Jersey OS map.

Best time to visit: during opening hours 9.30am - 5pm daily. Also nearby: Jersey Pottery, Gorey Village and the ancient Burial Chamber, La Hougue Bie. Jersey Zoo, founded by the late Gerald Durrell, is 20 minutes inland.

DEBORAH KING

Animal behaviour badly

Prozac for mice? Jane Symonds reports on an animal anxiety

W...

CLONING 80

سنة من العمل

Last great leap of the king of fish



Experts fear that wild salmon may become extinct by 2020, says Jonathan Young

Evolution played dirty with the Atlantic salmon. It created the king of fish, capable of living in both saltwater and freshwater, powerful enough to leap waterfalls in a single bound — and then it made man. Our negligence is driving British spring salmon towards dangerously low population levels. "Springers" are the big fish that spend more than one winter at sea and run our rivers early in the year to spawn. This year's springer count was so bad that the Environment Agency has proposed some radical solutions, which include a complete ban on catching any salmon, by anglers or commercial netmen, in England and Wales between January and June, and the mandatory return of all salmon, alive, by rod anglers.

Some think the call may have come too late. Orri Vigfusson, the Icelandic founder of the North Atlantic Salmon Fund, has spent years struggling to alert the world to the crisis. If current practices continue he thinks the last wild salmon will swim our rivers in 2020. Others dispute this, but all agree that their recent decline has been precipitous. Few have worked harder for the salmon's decline than the British. Blessed with more than 500 salmon-bearing rivers, we poisoned them during the Industrial Revolution and then made weirs that block the fishes' return to their spawning grounds. The Thames was once the prime salmon river in England and Wales, with 47 large fish being taken in just two hauls of a net at Richmond on June 7, 1749. But it became a sewer and the surviving salmon jumped vainly at Teddington Weir. Today our waters are cleaner but we have invented new ways of destroying the fish. In the North Sea their foodstuff, sand eels, is being turned into industrial fishmeal. We block their spawning streams with hydro-electric schemes and pollute them with agricultural slurry and tree plantations.

Up the Scottish west coast other man-made minefields await. Salmon farms were welcomed when they started in the mid-1980s — surely no one would bother netting the fish now they could be reared? But they did, despite the subsequent collapse in their price on the slab. Fish farms then added their own obstacles to the wild salmon's survival. As they wait for the right conditions to travel the rivers,

the wild fish are cooped up in sea lochs, which they now share with vast numbers of their caged cousins; about 83,000 tonnes of them are grown annually. The latter produce so much nutrient-rich excreta that they can change the species structure in the loch, deoxygenate the water and smother the seabed in organic sediment.

It was then discovered that this concentration of fish flesh led to an explosion of sea lice, which feed on the living fish and can only be controlled by insecticides. Wild salmon, migrating back to spawn in their native streams, now run through a soup of sea lice plankton. Their sea-trout cousins, which live in coastal waters year-round, have almost disappeared from many West Highland rivers, and on the Shiel and Carmoch the salmon have also fallen drastically in numbers. Jim Semple, chairman of the River Shiel District Salmon Fishery Board, is convinced they have been annihilated by the lice. "The evidence is overwhelming."

Matters worsened this year when it was discovered that five fish farms in the Skye area had the deadly infectious salmon anaemia. The farmed fish died or were culled; we await the possible effect on the wild stock.

While the scientists debate the causes, history gives a stark, clear picture of a once abundant species in decline. In 1927 on the Wye, for example, 6,000 were caught with an average weight of 19lb and in just one day on the Hampshire Test, in 1954, Sir Thomas and Lady Sopwith took 21 fish. For today's salmon anglers such catches and such big fish are part of a golden past. Models being developed by the International Council for the Exploration of the Seas suggest that European salmon stocks have fallen since the 1970s from 1,450,000 to 900,000. By comparison, there are at least 8,500 minke whales, 8,000 white-beaked dolphins and 340,000 porpoises in the North Sea alone, according to a survey carried out by the Sea Mammal Research Unit in 1994. Seals, a salmon predator, are also thriving — and their depredation of salmon stocks has a direct effect on jobs.

Despite this the Government does little to help. It is the salmon's harsh lot that it is not cuddly, big-eyed and cute.



A salmon leaps upstream to spawn; negligence has led to dangerously low population levels and a call to ban salmon fishing completely

Elliot Morley, fisheries minister, guns out press releases on ending the Southwest Tuna Fishery because of the danger to dolphins. Yet he has not stopped the North East Drift Net Fishery for salmon, although it kills some 2,000 springers a year for their dead-fish price — a tenth of their worth if caught by rod and line. They are not even England's salmon, but destined for Scottish rivers. And the nets kill far more than anglers — 31,484 in 1997 in England and Wales, compared to 13,706 for rod anglers.

If our own depredations were not enough, we do nothing to help the salmon in the so-called natural world that we have distorted. The Government's Salmon Advisory Committee warned in 1996 that the fish's predators could "affect the viability of the population". Their avian enemies — cormorants, mergansers and goosanders — are rising in numbers but are vigorously defended by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds.

No action has been taken, for this Government has been scared into ineffectiveness by the outcry over the Canadian harp seal cull. The only con-

trol is the occasional shooting under licence to stop damage to the farmed salmon stock.

Now a new potential threat has emerged. Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH), a government body, is pursuing a scheme to reintroduce the European beaver to the Spey, Tay, Dee and Don — four of the great Scottish salmon rivers. If the 30kg rodent is released here and dams the salmon's spawning grounds, what will happen to the fish?

The SNH talks blithely about how the salmon and beaver used to flourish together in Britain, conveniently forgetting that Britain was very different in 1510, when beavers were last here. The Scottish Office's Freshwater Fisheries Laboratory warns

that if beavers became established they may have to be culled. The seal situation suggests this will be impossible.

Sport anglers are adopting their own voluntary conservation policy of releasing some of the spring salmon they catch. They could, of course, stop fishing altogether but that would diminish their huge investment into the research and maintenance of salmon waters and there would be severe damage to the Scottish and Irish tourist industries.

Nonetheless, many anglers would make the sacrifice if they thought the Government would also take positive steps to help the fish, such as stopping the netting, imposing more stringent controls on fish farms and predators. Even then that might not be enough. For man has added one final

A VET WRITES

Next door's cat, Blackie, was not looking well for a few weeks so they took him to the vet who did a blood test, diagnosed advanced feline AIDS, and suggested Blackie be put to sleep. He was. Now I'm worried I have caught something because Blackie used to sit on my lap. Is there any danger?

There's no possible risk to you. AIDS is an abbreviation for Auto-Immune Deficiency Syndrome and although there is an infection of cats similar to human AIDS, the virus affecting cats, more properly called Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV), is totally distinct from the human AIDS.

I'm an enthusiastic gardener who wants to get rid of slugs and snails — but without hurting our Jack Russell, Emma. Could she come to any harm if I use slug pellets? I've tried all the "Ecologically friendly" control methods but they are not very effective.

Slug pellets kill dogs every year. Pellets in the plural are lethal. One pellet will kill a dozen snails but won't harm a dog. Fatalities occur when a dog gains access to a packet of pellets or when they're piled up in heaps around the lettuce. Be miserly when using slug pellets. If you want to be super-careful, put the pellets under a flagstone, supported an inch above the soil by four small stones.

I have two kittens and I would like to take on two fan-billed doves. But will they mix? The doves will have to be caged until they can establish their home base and I intend to allow the cats to meet them — with the cage wires in between — for an hour every day. Will this work?

You may be too late. If very young kittens (7-8 week old) are introduced to adult doves, the birds may intimidate the cats. The kittens will accept that doves are not to be trifled with. But once the kittens are half grown, say five months old, it's unlikely they will be influenced. Make certain that the doves feed, drink, perch and sleep in a dove-cote inaccessible to the cats. One on a pole would be suitable and an upside down bucket attached half way up the pole will defeat the most athletic cats. Give the kittens a wetting with a large-calibre water pistol as a useful training aid that will not harm them.

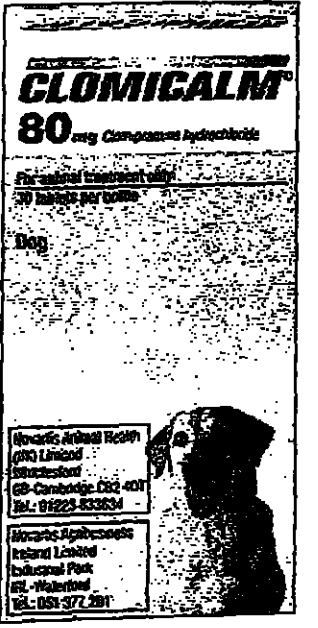
JAMES ALLCOCK

Animals behaving badly

Prozac for pets? Jane Symons reports on an animal anxiety pill

Whenever Madelynn Anderson left the house Molly, her German shepherd-collie cross, would go crazy. She barked and howled, urinated, scratched furiously at the door, chewed through plasterwork in the hallway and dug chunks out of the carpet.

On one occasion she bit through a tin of dog food in her distress at being left home alone. On another, she reduced a duvet to shreds of cloth and a heavy dusting of feathers. Madelynn's seven-year-old daughter, Jessica, would dissolve into tears when the dog became over-excited and bit her as they played. "It wasn't done viciously," Madelynn says, "but Molly would nip quite hard. It was also becoming increasingly difficult for Madelynn to earn a living — she has a small business making cakes from home and is scrupulous about hygiene. "It was a nightmare," she admits. "I used to dread coming home, not knowing what would be next. My neighbours were very good and said she would calm down in time but as the months went on, and she



didn't get any better, it was getting very embarrassing." Her vet suggested an animal behaviourist, but the ones Madelynn contacted charged £100 an hour plus VAT and warned that it could take months to resolve the problem — an impossible prospect for a single mother. In desperation she went back to Battersea Dogs' Home, where



Left alone in the back of a car, this dog shows aggressive behaviour, a problem which can be solved using a new drug

she had found Molly. Her plea came as Novartis Animal Health, one of Britain's biggest veterinary medicine companies, was looking for likely candidates to try Clomicalm, a new drug for dogs suffering separation anxiety.

After aggression, separation anxiety is the most common canine behavioural problem — in a recent survey 15 per cent of dog owners reported that their pets showed some symptoms. Common problems include barking and howling, urinating and defecating, trying to escape and manic chewing; in extreme cases, dogs gnaw at their own limbs in an attempt to relieve their anxiety. Julia Schurer, spokeswoman for Wood Green Animal Shelters, says it is one of the most common reasons for so-called "problem" dogs that are brought in for rehoming. It can also arise when new homes have been found for previously well-behaved dogs. "They will lose confidence while at the shelter — an environment which is unfamiliar — then, on being rehomed, they will be almost jealous in their love for their new owner and they may develop signs of over-dependency," she says.

Separation anxiety is not a result of poor training or neglect — if anything there is too close a bond between the pet and its owner. Peter Neville, an animal behaviourist, says: "You could say it's almost that they love their owners too much. When they are with their owners they are friendly, nice, invariably problem-free dogs. But when their owner leaves, they bark and scream and howl to try to attract their attention."

He says that many of these behaviours are regulated by chemicals such as serotonin and noradrenalin, which control the flow of information between neurotransmitters in the brain — and it is these chemical reactions that Clomicalm targets. Initial reports of the clinical trials of Clomicalm likened it to a form of Prozac for pets — an association its manufacturers are keen to play down. Although it does contain a Prozac-like compound — which increases serotonin levels in the brain — it also contains a broad spectrum tricyclic antidepressant. This combination calms the animal and makes it more receptive to behavioural therapy. Dr Neville emphasises that it is not a happy pill that will transform a dog behaving badly into a perfect pooch — Clomicalm will have little or no impact on an animal that does not have separation anxiety. But for pets like Molly the results can be dramatic. "Clomicalm is very good at getting the treatment started," he says. "What we are aiming to do in terms of a therapeutic process is to establish a new mood in the dog so that it is much more relaxed about the signals that go with the owner's departure." "It works very, very quickly," Madelynn confirms. "We had tried bits of behavioural training before, with little effect. But after three or four weeks of Clomicalm and training there was a huge change. In fact, she was so good that I made the mistake of forgetting the behavioural therapy and she had a complete relapse."



Anxiety has turned this dog into a destructive pet

attention Madelynn would just turn her back on the animal. Molly was ignored until the doorstop was put away — then she was given lots of attention. "Once the signal is established you can use it half an hour before you are going to leave in order to switch the dog off," he says. Molly is now halfway through her course of Clomicalm, but already she is a completely different animal. The howling, chewing and scratching have stopped and Madelynn feels she can once again look her neighbours in the eye.

The really nice thing about it is that when I first got Molly she would not leave me alone. Everywhere I went, she would follow. But now she is becoming more of being my little girl's dog," she says. Training centred on giving Molly clear signals about when to expect attention. Dr Neville used a duck doorstop as a visual code — it was put in a prominent position to tell Molly to be quiet and if she tried to attract

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MILLIE is an eight-year-old collie-cross who was a stray. She is a quiet dog with a gentle nature who is house-trained, good with children and other dogs and has a delightful temperament. If you would like to adopt Millie, please contact the RSPCA West Hatch Animal Centre (01823 480156).

Forklifts, foremen and the f-word: this week's challenge is a timely reminder to David Bowker of the evils of work

Flipping out on the factory floor

I've never really seen the point of work. Why waste the best years of your life working when you could be asleep in bed?

as much diesel oil as I could drink — were too attractive to resist. On Monday, I clocked in at 7.45am and had a cup of tea with my fellow labourers.

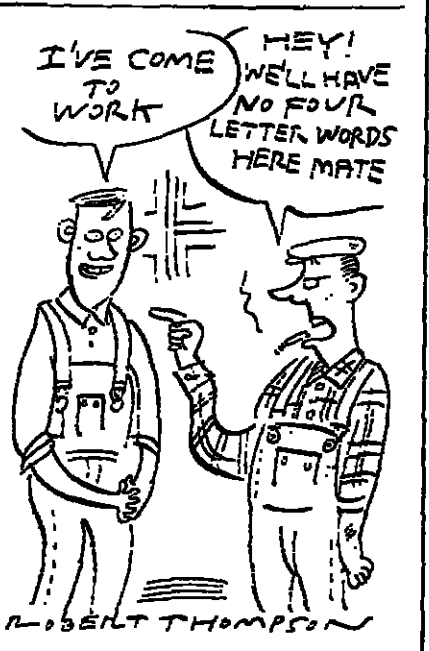
foreman'll want us all to work hard. Before you know where you are, there'll be total anarchy.

SEVEN LONG DAYS



playing poker. To my surprise, one of them turned out to be the foreman.

changing "flip" words with my work-mates. The foreman marched up to me and demanded to know why I hadn't moved the pallets.



WEEKEND COURSES AND ACTIVITIES

JULY 31-AUGUST 2

Dividing the Skomer marine reserve and the Pembroke Islands. With the Field Studies Centre, Dale Fort, Haverfordwest. (01646 636205). Price, £204 residential, £160 non-residential.

Field Studies Council Centre, East Bergholt, Colchester, Essex (01206 298283). Price per course, £140 residential, £110 non-residential.



Learn about the German offensives on the Western Front in 1918 at the University of Birmingham

Music Trust, Hitchin, Herts (01462 459446). Price, £105 residential, £85 non-residential.

With Scottish Voyageurs (01651 851215). Price, £135 all inclusive.

Price, £172. Family activities: Dinghy sailing, canoeing, surfing, rafting, abseiling. At the Skern Lodge Centre, Appledore, Bideford, Devon (01237 475992).

Price, £172. Family activities: Dinghy sailing, canoeing, surfing, rafting, abseiling. At the Skern Lodge Centre, Appledore, Bideford, Devon (01237 475992).

AUGUST 14-16

Conservation activities in all parts of Britain. With the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers (01491 824602).

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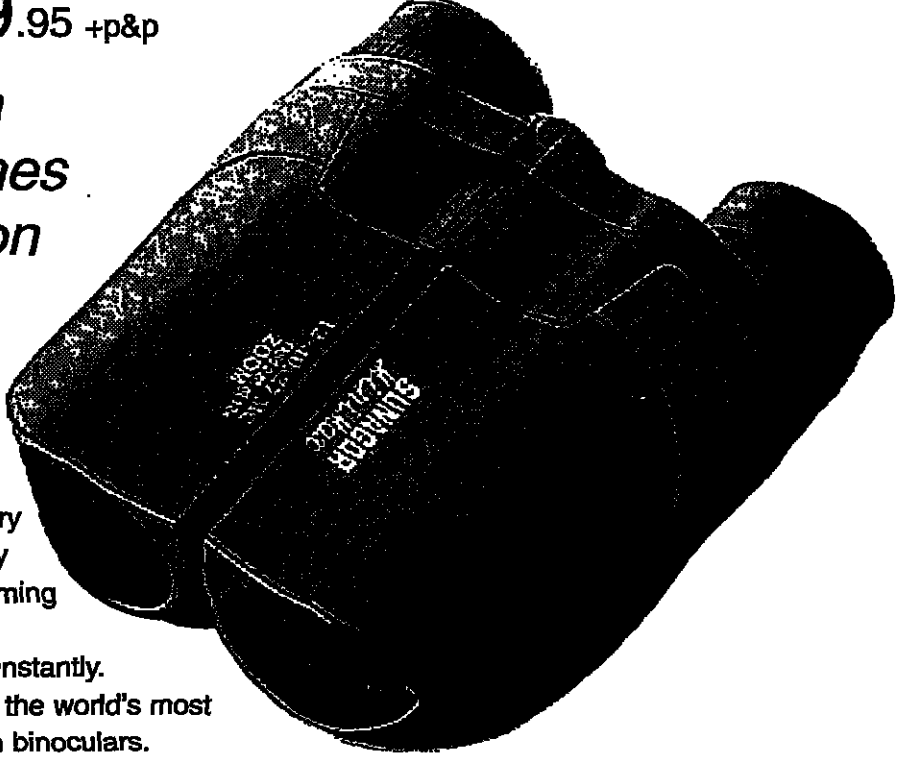
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Hugh Warwick tours the Canadian province of British Columbia to see how its wildlife gets ready to hibernate



A grizzly bear braves the rushing waters of a river in British Columbia to catch a salmon. The grizzlies are Canada's largest bears, and autumn is a good time to see them; by November they will have dug themselves into a den to hibernate

Preparing for the long sleep

The Helmcken Falls, where the River Murde drops nearly 450 feet, invite awe, with rising spray visible from seven miles away. Just half a mile away, standing on the viewing platform, all I wanted to do was get closer, but as Dave Montgomery, the senior warden in the Wells Gray Provincial Park pointed out, it would be a tough two-day hike to the other side of the river.

I had come to the park in southwestern British Columbia, as first stop on a trip across the southern part of Canada's most spectacular province. When winter hits this Canadian wilderness, it keeps an icy grip for more than six months of the year. I had arrived just before the first snows, as the animals were preparing for their long sleep, and while the leaves were making the transition from green to an elegant, decaying yellow. I was hoping to see as much wildlife as possible before winter forced the creatures into hibernation.

The falls would soon begin their own metamorphosis — they move too quickly themselves to ice over, but huge upturned ice cones are created by the splash from the water which freezes as it rises after hitting the ground. My base was the Helmcken Falls Lodge on the edge of the park. The log cabin rooms overlook a flood plain that has turned into a golf course while remaining the haunt of numerous grizzly bears, searching for something a bit more substantial than a birdie. I did not

see the bears but I was greeted by a wolf. OK, I exaggerate. I was greeted by what looked very much like a wolf, but one that responded to the name Mercedes, adored having her tummy tickled and turned out to be a husky.

The next day Dave came for me around dawn, the best time to catch a glimpse of animals getting ready for winter. After a short drive into ever-thickening mist, we got out and started walking. I have walked through parks in Africa, and this had a similar primal feel. The silence was incredible — even our footsteps were muffled by the thick fall of leaves. Then there was a change in the atmosphere. We had come to a clearing, and it took a few moments to realise that our path was blocked by a body of water.

The silence was broken by a red squirrel chattering angrily at us — it was clutching a large roadstool in its paws and I asked Dave whether it was getting ready for hibernation. He pointed out that unlike bears, squirrels stay active throughout the great freeze, surviving on caches of food like the one that this squirrel seemed to be preparing. The mist lifted and I caught a glimpse of another of the park's residents — a beaver making determinedly for its lodge, the large mound of branches that forms the animal's amphibious retreat. Travelling west on my quest for wildlife across the province, from the inland grandeur of Wells Gray to Vancouver Island, I understood why friends who live in British Columbia say it is so filled with

'Far from being fierce, bald eagles are no more than pretty vultures'



Tour guide Brent guiding the raft down the Squamish river where bald eagles were seen, and right, an aerial view of Wickaninnish Inn, on its small peninsula

natural wonders that it can be difficult to leave. For example, there is the four-year salmon cycle which, at its climax (due this October), sees the fish change from silver and brown into vivid red, colouring the great rivers of the Rocky Mountains as the final act of breeding drives them upstream, before they spawn and then die in their hundreds of thousands. And in death they give life, providing food for bears, fertilising trees and keeping the magnificent bald eagle nourished.

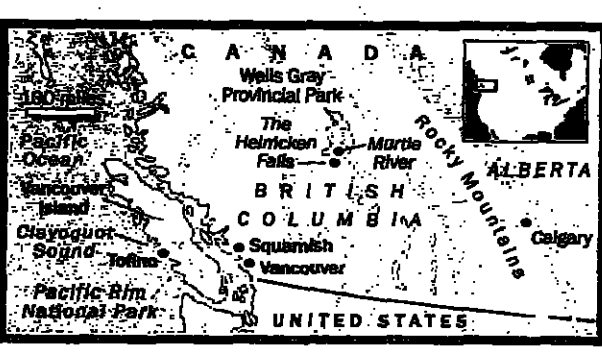
A good way to see the eagles at this time of the year is to take an inflatable raft down the River Squamish, from where you can spy the eagles dotting the trees. Our guide, Brent, steering us between the rocks and logs, corrected a natural history mythology. "Far from being the fierce and independent creatures that people

think, bald eagles are no more than pretty vultures."

Back on dry land, I followed the flow of the rivers to the coast and headed to Vancouver by car along the Sea-to-Sky Highway. From Vancouver I took one of the regular light aircraft flights to the far side of Vancouver Island. Flying over Vancouver Island is a revelation. All I had seen in the Wells Gray Park suggested that there could be no end to the trees of British Columbia, but here bald hillsides bear witness to the brutal efficiencies of modern logging practices which have devastated the interior of the island. My destination however, was in one of the areas saved from the ravages of the chainsaw — the Wickaninnish Inn sits on the border of the Pacific Rim National Park, near the mouth of Clayoquot Sound. It is set among an old growth forest of western red cedar, massive sitka spruce and hemlock



an aerial view of Wickaninnish Inn, on its small peninsula



trees. The front door is carved from cedar by a local artist, and beyond it there is a luxurious hotel, ideally situated on a small peninsula. From the lobby is a view of the Pacific Ocean, and at night you are lulled by the sound of the sea as it enters the surge pools, only a few feet from the veranda doors. Alternatively, from the comfort of the bar, you can witness the Pacific storms unleashing their fury.

The west coast of Vancouver Island is a very wet place, with an average annual rainfall that is sometimes more than nine feet. The forest which cloaks the hills and tumbles down to the surging ocean is technically temperate rainforest — and it contains all the grandeur and diversity of its tropical cousin. Walking on one of the many trails that are

easily accessible from the hotel, you find yourself in a humid world of great ferns, mosses and lichens clinging to the trunks of giant trees.

It was here that I experienced the highlight of my visit — whale watching from the village of Tofino with Jamie's Whaling Station, which has been taking tours out around the islands that litter the mouth of Clayoquot Sound since 1982. There is little I love more than being on the sea, but my physiology only allows me 25 minutes, after which there is little I hate more than being on the sea. Patrick Koreski, captain of the *Lady Selkirk*, provided me with acupuncture wrist bands, and instructions to keep looking at the horizon.

Starting out to sea, I caught sight of a shadow on the water and shouted "whale", whereupon all 30 pairs of eyes on the boat strained... It was a very deceptive piece of wood. This, plus the rising nausea, dampened my excitement. Even the raucous honkings of the colony of steller sea lions failed to raise my spirits (or lower my breakfast). And then came the words that strike terror into feeble-stomached individuals: "Let's just wait here for a while."

The *Lady Selkirk* proceeded to wallow. And then, out of the corner of my eye, I saw an unexplained puff of steam. All sense of impending sickness vanished as I watched the majestic tail of a gray whale lift itself in a languid wave, before following the invisible mammoth down into the abyss. It was humbling to realise that these 45ft beasts were just stopping off midway through their 5,000-mile annual migration, from the waters off Siberia, down to the tropics and Mexico. For the next half-hour they treated us to a simple display of whale life.

Federal regulations protect them by prohibiting boats from approaching within 150 feet, but they clearly had not read the regulations and came closer to get a good look at us, the enraptured humans.

BRITISH COLUMBIA FACT FILE

- Hugh Warwick travelled with Canadian Airlines and Tourism BC.
- Getting there: Canadian Airlines (0181-571 7722) has return fares to Vancouver from £62. Flights from Vancouver to Tofino with North Vancouver Air (tel 001 604 278 1608; fax 001 604 278 2608) cost £95.
- Where to stay: Hugh Warwick was a guest of Helmcken Falls Lodge (tel 001 250 614 2657; fax 001 250 674 2970) in Wells Gray Park, PO Box 229, Clearwater V0E 1N0, where rooms cost £47 per person per night.
- He also stayed at the Wickaninnish Inn, Tofino, BC (tel: 001 250 725 3100; fax 001 250 725 3100) e-mail: wickaninnish.net, Web site: <http://www.wickaninnish.net/> which has a great link into weather reports, including current satellite images. A double room there costs £107 per night.
- Red tape: Very little, as visas are not required for British citizens.
- What to do: Jamie's Whaling Station (001 250 725 3919; fax 001 250 725 2138, e-mail: jamies@island.net; Web site: <http://www.jamies.com/> runs whale-watching trips for about £30 per adult.
- The float down the River Squamish, with its views of eagles in trees along the riverbanks, was organised courtesy of the Canadian Outback Adventure Company (001 604 921 7250) and costs £48.
- Guidebooks: *Canada: Travel Survival Kit* (Lonely Planet Publications, £14.99) is one of the best guides available. Other comprehensive guides that are highly recommended include *Canada: 1998 Complete Guide to the Mountains, Cliffs, Coasts, Prairies and Wilderness* (Fodor's Travel Publications, £14.99); *Canada: The Rough Guide* (Rough Guides, £12.99).
- Further information: available from the Visit Canada Centre (0891 715000, premium rate line), 62-65 Trafalgar Square, London WC2N 5DY.

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High fliers: Olivia Lawson and friend relayed news of their skydive via e-mail messages

Anthea Lawson casts an envious glance at her sister's e-mail adventures

My sister Olivia Lawson, 19, is spending some of her gap year travelling solo in New Zealand, Australia and southeast Asia. She has so far been away for three months, with another two to go. E-mails have been arriving in London at least every three days — much more frequently than phone calls.

Those to our parents contain reassurances that she is well, hasn't hit the credit card yet, and is having a fantastic time. Those to this jealous older sister confirm that she is behaving just as outrageously as expected.

The tone has gradually changed. The words "missing you loads", frequent at first, hardly appear now. Disgust at the cockroach-infested groutiness of cheap hostels in red light districts has given way to relaxed amusement at each new

www.wish you-werehere

discovery. These frequent insights would not have happened with letters. "Snail mail" advocates condemn the lack of reflection which goes into an e-mail, but the haste with which they are written makes them special, giving us the feeling of conversation without the cost.

E-mail has made the logistics of her trip easier too. When trouble flared up in Indonesia a few weeks before she was due to fly out there, e-mails were exchanged and my

parents managed to switch her flights without hassle.

As well as easing parental concerns, e-mail has revolutionised the travelling experience. Liv reckons that 98 per cent of the travellers she met in Australia were using e-mail. Rather than parting from new-found friends with a "maybe see you in Darwin, Chiang Mai or Goa", Liv collects their e-mail addresses. She was already finding the world trrier than ex-

pected when she met a friend of mine on her first night away in Christchurch, New Zealand. Before she even had a chance to phone home, I received an e-mail from this friend telling me my sister had arrived safely. They stayed in touch and arranged to meet in Queensland in Australia. The next I heard was when a video arrived in the post, showing the results of a drunken evening persuading each other to skydive in tandem.

Liv's friends, who might otherwise have been lucky to receive postcards, are up to date on her adventures, and she is equally aware of developments at home. She is clearly relishing her independence — along with being able to tell us all about it. The skydiving friend agrees: "If I feel like a clean break, I can have one. If not, the inbox is a phone call away."

E-mail keeps you posted

Staying in touch with friends on the move was a hit-and-miss exercise when travelling in South America a decade ago. Delayed by storms, broken down buses or a lack of cash, it often meant a missed rendezvous, subsequently arriving at a backpacker hotel in Lima within hours of the friend taking the nightbus to Cuzco.

A note scrawled on the back of an envelope, should the friend pass back through, and pinned to the lobby noticeboard became the lexicon of backpackers. That method, a message left with a third-party acquaintance or a chance reunion in a railway terminus, was how we stayed in touch.

When it came to family and friends at home, there was the thrill of picking up a bundle of mail from the American Express poste restante office, or learning how to say "reverse-charge call" in Spanish.

The cutting edge of technology in Peru then amounted to a battery-powered paper knife. Now, if I were in Lima, I could sit in the Hostal Familiar Marni Panchitac, a small hotel run by a Dutch-Peruvian family, sip coffee, switch on their Internet link and send an e-mail for friends to read in a Cuzco cyber café.

I could also, should I wish, leave an e-mail message for a

Backpackers have no excuses for not writing home, as cyber cafés are opening up all over the world, writes Steve Keenan

friend travelling through the Middle East to pick up at Café Oté in Kuwait City. Or the Kalia Café in Tonga. Or the Dito Internet Café in New York.

Staying in touch by e-mail is not only for friends on the road. Parents, friends and family at home now stay in contact at the press of a button, with many who were previously computer illiterate buying a PC with the specific purpose of using e-mail.

Not only is it more convenient, it is also cheaper than the telephone — as Brian MacArthur, an executive editor with the *Times*, discovered on buying a BT charge card for his 18-year-old daughter, Georgie, to take on a six-month trip to New Zealand, Australia, Indonesia and Thailand.

While enabling her to stay in touch with her parents, the first quarterly BT bill came to an impressive £665. Now, Mr MacArthur has discovered the benefits of e-mail.

"It's magnificent. First, you just want to stay in touch. Mother is terrified our daughter will be lost, robbed, unaided, all of that, and letters have a habit of not arriving.

"Now I can just sit and babble away. E-mail is instant and simple. In retrospect, I would have said to her 'Here, take £250 — and e-mail me.'"

Internet cafés have sprung up worldwide to cater for those wanting to stay in touch. According to the Netcafé Guide, an online directory, there are now 1,700 cafés in 95 countries, with a further 900 public access points worldwide, in places such as exchange bureaux, hotels and travel agencies.

While existing primarily in the developed world to serve local customers without PCs, Internet and e-mail facilities, e-mail's obvious advantages for travellers has meant that those countries on the main backpacker routes have developed outlets rapidly.

Airports are also plugging in to demand. At Singapore's Changi Airport, 15 PCs have been installed in the Internet centre in Terminal 2, with free

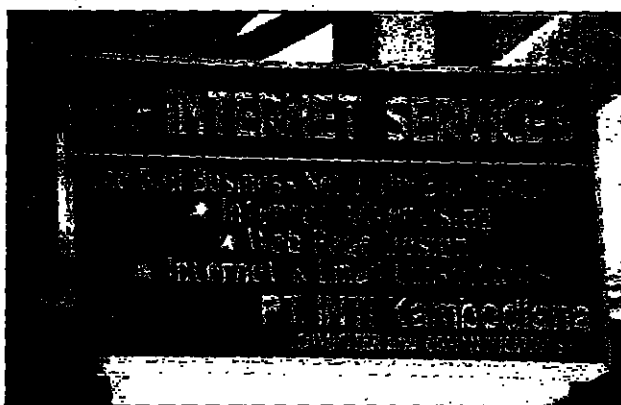


E-mailers can sit in comfort while eating, drinking and writing reassuring messages to mum and dad in this cyber café in Taipei

connection points also scattered throughout the airport for travellers carrying their own laptops.

According to the latest edition of the Netcafé Guide, there are 33 cafés in South America, 27 in India, 26 in Thailand and 14 in Indonesia. Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the USA are strewn with cybercafés, set up by entrepreneurs who have seen the communications future.

Stockbroker David Stewart, 39, is among them. He left London four years ago bound for Australia, in search of a new career. But stopping off in Koh Samui, a popular holiday island in Thailand, he liked it so much, he decided to stay.



Internet cafés are everywhere and are cheap and easy to use

soft's Hotmail system, or other networks such as Pop-mail and MailStart. Travellers use the same unique e-mail log-in to collect their mail wherever they are. The only charge is a rate per hour. For those staying a month or more in one place, cafés will offer long-term membership deals which will include discounts or, in some cases, unlimited access.

In keeping with the development of a social computer culture, Internet cafés are no longer offering simply a PC and a Pepsi.

At the Internet Café in New York's Manhattan, live jazz and blues bands play five nights a week and literature readings are held regularly. Drinks include imported beers and domestic microbrews, coffee and Italian sodas. And, at the Internet Café in the centre of Madrid, tapas and coffee are offered alongside PC connection.

Many cafés also have scanning facilities, allowing backpackers to send their holiday snaps home over the Web: great for worried parents.

WEBWORLD: STAYING IN TOUCH

The "Where do I start" site: For a clear guide to staying in touch while travelling, look at <http://www.roughguides.com/>. The grandpappy of all traveller bulletin boards — the Thorn Tree — is at <http://www.loneplanet.com/>. At the other end of the spectrum are sites such as <http://www.weblane.com/experiencia/bb> where all you have to do is find a cybercafé, log on and post or retrieve your messages.

The mugging-up site: An Aussie-leaning but impressive web links page that leads to the Backpacker's Guide to the Internet is at <http://www.ozemail.com.au/backpacker/> with Internet cafés, message board, job tips and e-mail services.

The e-zine of cheap travel is <http://www.stratpub.com/shoel.html> including user exchange pages. If you want to set up your very own bulletin board and check out the Mother-of-all-BBs for the ultimate exchange of ideas (rather than mail) go to <http://www.mbb.cs.colorado.edu/mcbryan/bb/summary.html>

Go Internet Café: goi@sanmart.co.th

Netcafé Guide: <http://www.netcafeguide.com/>

Internet Café, New York: <http://www.bigmagic.com>

Ker-ching! the best deal site: <http://www.hostels.com/bulletinboard/> provides discussion forums on hostelling and budget travel as well as opportunities to get in touch with fellow travellers on the road.

Travellers' tales site: Prolific travel writer Lucy Izon's Backpacker Journal is a mine of information at <http://www.izon.com>. At the Traveller's Exchange at <http://gwis2.circ.gwu.edu/indathe/travel.html> there is a whole collection of varied travel experiences.

"Well, I never! the random e-mail account while travelling if you don't know where the log-on points are. Sounds obvious, but typing in "cybercafes" and the name of the city into your search engine tells you all you need to know. Another option is at <http://www2.planet.com/mader/ecotravel/coffeeag/cybercafe.html> which lists all current cybercafés in Latin America.

SUSANNAH JOWITT

The Frankincense Trail An Arabian Odyssey

The riches of Arabia were once transported by sea and caravan from the area we know today as the Oman and Yemen, through Saudi Arabia, to the Nabataean city of Petra. Frankincense was, by far, the most important of all the ancient exports and from Petra it made its way to the Greek and Roman world where its use was craved in huge quantities. So much so that in Roman times a serious trade deficit problem loomed on the horizon (sounds familiar?).

Our voyage will take us half-way round the Arab coastline from Aqaba to Muscat. We will stop in the Yemen port of Mukhalla, the gateway to the dramatic Hadramawt Valley, where Hadramis grew rich producing and controlling the finest frankincense. This is an extraordinary region which has changed little over the centuries. Mud-brick skyscrapers rise out of the harsh desert creating a mystical landscape.

We will forsake the section of the route traditionally undertaken by camel, in favour of the wonderfully comfortable "Monet". View an incredible variety of landscapes and cultures, from and desert, to verdant mountains in an area that sees few tourists.

ITINERARY OUTLINE
 Day 1. London Heathrow to Amman with British Airways. Stay overnight.
 Day 2. Amman to Petra. Drive to Petra for a two night stay.
 Day 3. Petra. Explore the "Rose Red City".
 Day 4. Petra to Aqaba. Morning visit to Petra. Afternoon drive via Wadi Run to Aqaba. Embark "Monet" and sail in the evening.
 Day 5. Sharm el Sheikh, Sinai Peninsula. Optional tour to St Catherine's Monastery.
 Days 6-8. Cruising in the Red Sea.
 Day 9. Hodeidah, Yemen.
 Day 10. Aden, Yemen.

Day 11. At sea
 Day 12. Mukhalla. Optional excursion by air to the Hadramawt.
 Day 13. At sea.
 Day 14. Salalah, the Oman.
 Days 15 & 16. At sea.
 Day 17. Sur, the Oman.
 Day 18. Muscat, the Oman. Disembark after breakfast. Evening departure with British Airways.
 Day 19. London Heathrow. Morning arrival.

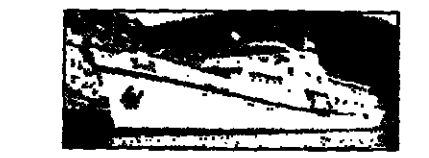
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'S' Single Cabin on Camille or Parisian Deck	£3145

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'MY MONET'
 The 'Monet' has been specifically designed for inland sea and coastal cruising, recognising the increasing demand for small, well run and comfortable vessels. Obviously, she offers a very different experience to that provided aboard the large resort style ships. There are no floor shows, entertainment staff or any of the regimented events found on larger vessels. What you will find is a superbly run ship offering excellently prepared meals and with only a maximum of 56 passengers on board.

Spacious passenger cabins are located over three decks and have outside views. They are finished with beautiful hardwoods and quality fabrics and offer TV, VCR, multi-channel music, telephone, individual climate control, generous wardrobe space and a private shower and bathroom. Other facilities include: single sitting dining, large comfortable lounge and bar, shop and clinic. On the Sun Deck there is a Jacuzzi and splash pool and spacious areas for relaxing and reading.

While dabbling in shares, he needed another business to make a living. And being used to the PC-based world of commerce, he spotted an opportunity. His Go Internet Café was the first on the island. Now there are seven cafés or offices offering Web access, with his even offering a live camera trained on the bar. Remarkably, this allows telephone callers to the café who have also accessed the bar's website to see a "live" image — updated every 30 seconds — of the person you are talking to. As I did with Mr Stewart.

"We open every day, 10am until 9.30pm, and later if we have customers who prefer to party with our computers, rather than in one of the discos or bars here."

At the Bulan Cybercafé in Lombok, Indonesia (access £2.20 an hour), services also include transport, accommodation and sightseeing. It plans scuba diving lessons and has a tour operating arm. With a culture of young, like-minded travellers who are comfortable with technology, the concept of an internet café with travel-related services, drinks and food appeals to many. The Hub Internet Café in Brisbane, Australia, is not untypical in advertising its wares on the Web. "The HUB is a multiplexed, multi-function, multi-typed hangout — a collision of life on the Net with real life. Food & photos, café-fine & chat. YUM!"

Most cafés offer a free e-mail address, such as Micro-

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And not a broken plate in sight

Mike Gerrard puts on his apron to help in the kitchen at the Mantalena restaurant, on Zakynthos in Greece

It is 5.30am. Soula Pylarinos takes a key from the table in her hall and walks next door to the Mantalena, the restaurant she opened with her husband Ianni in 1978.

There were no tourists in Alikanas, on the Greek island of Zakynthos, back then and Soula's home cooking was for the locals. There were only a few tables and the chairs were beer crates.

But tonight they will serve more than 100 customers, mostly British tourists, though the menu remains resolutely Greek, with recipes from Soula, her mother and her grandmothers.

5.40am: Soula puts on her apron and studies the list left the previous night by her son Tasos, 34, who manages the Mantalena.

They need youvetsi (pasta shaped like rice, served with meat dishes), moussaka, stuffed squid, briam (oven-baked courgettes, tomatoes, potatoes and onions), stuffed aubergines, beans, pastisio (a macaroni dish with minced beef and tomatoes) and spetsofai (sausages cooked in green peppers and garlic).

5.45am: She cuts the meat, does the aubergines and prepares vegetables. "I like the evenings when I go for a walk with my grandchildren," she says. "I can smell the cooking smells."

"I also like it when waiters bring empty plates back because I know my cooking has been good."

5am: Eleni, a kitchen assistant, arrives to help and starts on the beans.

8.30am: Tasos arrives too, as his father is in Athens. "My father usually cuts the meat for my mother," Tasos says. "Then she chases him out of the kitchen."

9am: Soula cleans green peppers picked in the garden. They are good with ouzo, she says. "Peeled, fried, little bit vinegar, little bit salt, very nice." Rusa arrives for work and starts sweeping the floor.

9.10am: "I'll do the squid," says Tasos. "I soak them in soda water to soften them."

He gets the stuffing Soula has made. "Rice, onions, fresh herbs, tomato, a bit of cheese. The secret of stuffing squid is using an ice-cream spoon with a long handle."

The cheese is lathotiri, stored in olive oil. "It's a spicy sheep's cheese from the best cheese-maker on the island, harder than feta and twice as expensive."

9.30am: The stuffed chickens are ready, the moussaka done. Tasos dislikes cheap special menus, which he believes attract tourists but rip them off because the ingredients are inferior.

"I have a saying," Tasos smiles. "You pretend you're paying them and they pretend they're feeding you." He never stands outside to talk people in. "I hate that. You never do it to Greeks, why do it to visitors?" he says.

10am: Tasos heads into Zakynthos town, eight miles away. His wife Maria goes too, with their 17-month-old daughter, Soula. Maria makes the desserts and checks what is needed: baklava, walnut cake, galatoboureko (a sweet pastry with custard filling).

10.15am: Tasos is at the wholesalers ordering meat. He says:



Eleni, left, picks apricots from the garden which will be soaked in brandy for customers at the Mantalena; Maria pours the sauce on the galatoboureko, centre; Natasa takes the first orders, right



"They know how fussy I am. This is the biggest wholesaler on Zakynthos and they know what everyone orders, so I was pleased when the owners' son got married and the reception was held at the Mantalena."

11.30am: Maria puts the galatoboureko in the oven and starts the baklava.

11.45am: Tasos returns to the restaurant with a new CD. "It's for the girls. They say they can't wait on tables listening to last year's hits."

1pm: There are few lunchtime customers. They stay by their pools at their villas.

2pm: Eleni goes and climbs one of the apricot trees to pick fruit. The man opposite shouts: "See, if you want a woman in Zakynthos, just shake a tree."

4pm: Tasos is asleep when the evening staff arrive. Zoe the cook, her daughter Natasa, a waitress, and the young waiter, also called Tasos, Jordanes works on the barbecue. Irini washes up, Rusa and Eleni take a break.

4.15pm: Natasa and young Tasos mop up, Jordanes skewers chickens on the barbecue pole, stokes the charcoal and puts the birds on to brown.

4.35pm: Zoe starts dishes simmering. They are timed to be ready by 7pm. The apricots are soaked in brandy.

5.15pm: Natasa changes the menus and tries the new CD. Tasos lays the tables.

5.50pm: Olga arrives at the barbecue. Natasa pours ouzo; every customer is given a complimentary glass. "We give out about a hundred free glasses a night," she says.

7.28pm: Natasa brings in the first order. A pink slip goes to Zoe who starts a line of them, held down with wooden spoons. Greek salad, moussaka, spetsofai. Hrisa, who does desserts and coffees, is lining up cups.

Zoe puts a Greek salad on a tray and ticks the order. The Albanian helper Foti puts wine on the tray. Zoe ticks it, young Tasos takes it out.

7.30pm: The second order sees the evening staff in earnest. Two Greek salads, spinach pie and skordalia.

Zoe finishes her stock of Greek salads so they are ready as orders come in. "They only take 30 seconds if there's an order," says Tasos. "And the salads go out very fresh."

7.35pm: More orders: deep-fried courgettes and aubergines. The batter is flour, salt, pepper, garlic, beer. "Beer is the secret," says Tasos.

8pm: "Number 20 is ready." Olga's voice crackles over the intercom between kitchen and barbecue. Zoe checks order 20, puts dishes on the tray and Rusa takes it to Olga.

"I like to think we can be quick so the customers can take their time with their meals," says Tasos.

8.30pm: Zoe produces nine pink slips, a rush of customers. Tasos puts on his apron.

"I usually greet people, take orders and watch everything, but when the orders get two-thirds the way down the table like this, I help Zoe."

8.35pm: Zoe is in overdrive. Hrisa makes coffees, one with a Matterhorn of cream on top.

Eleni fries squid. Young Tasos brings in more orders.

When it is busy the place runs on co-operation and adrenalin.

Maria sits at the till, Soula baby-sits. Natasa brings back dirty dishes. "Look at those," Zoe says. "All they've left is a green bean and some bones."

8.40pm: Tasos drops coins into the tips dish. Hrisa takes out a bowl of ice-cream with an umbrella in it. Maria leaves the till to help serve.

8.45pm: "Well that didn't come out of a tin," I overhear a woman say. Hubby agrees: "That bit you gave me was very good."

9.30pm: Two regulars wander in to pay. "We're here on holiday for three weeks and eat here every night," they say. "We tried another place but the aubergines were burnt."

10pm: Eleni peels apples, Irini brings clean plates from the dishwasher, young Tasos measures out a brandy. Natasa throws a dirty tablecloth in the bin, Zoe dishes up a moussaka and tells Tasos to take it to table 24. Foti takes a beer out, reminding Maria to add it to the bill.

10.15pm: Zoe has delivered all her orders so she takes a break. Tasos and Rusa play football with little Soula.

10.45pm: A couple arrive, two regulars leave. "The brandies are on the house," Tasos tells them as they pay.

11.40pm: Olga scrubs the stoves. "The kitchen must be clean for my mother," Tasos explains.

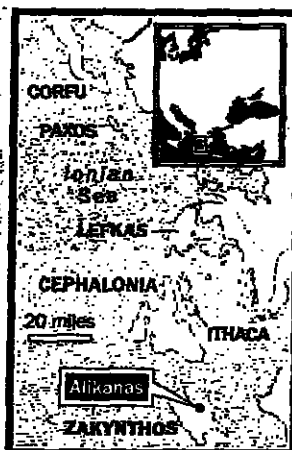
12.20pm: Tasos closes the till, which whirrs away. "It records what we've taken, what we've sold. On Sunday, I write it in the books. We must do it within ten days by law."

12.35pm: Zoe feeds the staff: tsatsiki, chips, salad, pork, chicken, moussaka, sifado, rice, beer. "In August we'd still be serving," Tasos says.

1.15am: Tasos and Zoe decide what they need tomorrow: youvetsi, moussaka, stuffed squid, sifado.

1.25am: Tasos leaves the shopping list in the kitchen. He closes the front doors, switches off the lights and walks to the family home, where he lives upstairs, his parents below. Before going to bed, he leaves the key on his mother's hall table.

ZAKYNTHOS FACT FILE



Mike Gerrard flew to Zakynthos with the Greek Islands Club (0181-232 9780) using its exclusive Airworld upgrade service, which offers complimentary drinks, newspapers and superior food. Villas are available in Old Alikanas and in the neighbouring village of Ammoudi (where Zoe and Natasa live). Prices start at £432 for a week in low season, based on two people sharing and including car hire.

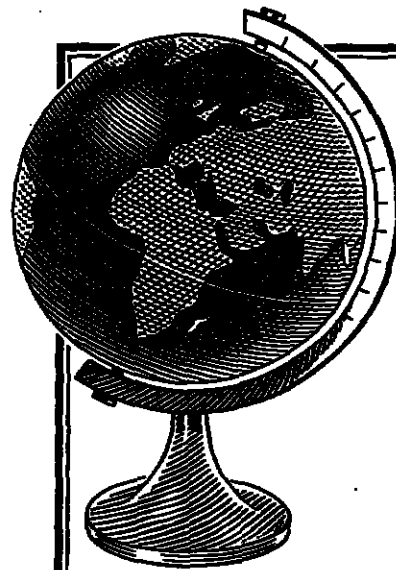
(Toubi's £5) includes recipes and information. It is available throughout Greece, including the souvenir shop in Alikanas run by Tasos's sister, Roula. The Mantalena (0030 695 83487) is on the road to Alikas, 100 yards from the turning to Alikanas. It is open daily from Easter to the end of October and in winter at weekends only. A meal for two, including starter, main course, dessert and a bottle of wine, costs about £16. Mike Gerrard helped out for two nights as a waiter and the staff gave him five drachmas (about 1p) as his share of the tips. He would like to thank them for this assessment of his ability. Further information: Greek National Tourism Organisation, 4 Conduit Street, London W1R 0DJ (0171-734 5997).



'I like to think we can be quick in the kitchen so the customers can take time with their meals'



When customers arrive, after a long day of preparation, the Mantalena restaurant runs on adrenalin



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Goodbye to all that communism



Shavarst: dissenting voice

Vibrant Armenia is shaking off its dour Soviet past with a vengeance, says Jill Crawshaw

There was a universal reaction when I announced I was going to Armenia. "Er, where exactly is it?" Guesses ranged from "above Greece" and "next to Syria" to "somewhere on the Black Sea".

Armenia is the tiny, landlocked, mountainous republic east of the Black Sea — smaller than Belgium, only about a tenth of it lies below 1,000 metres. It was the first country to adopt Christianity in AD301, a devout scribe inventing its 39-letter alphabet 100 years later. Byron was one of the few Westerners to master its language.

In this century, Armenia was the smallest state, with the oldest city, within the USSR, but one of the first to declare independence in 1991. It is now surrounded by a bunch of predatory neighbours: a dispute is raging with Azerbaijan over possession of Nagorno-Karabakh. Even the national symbol, Mount Ararat, where Noah's Ark is said to have settled after the floods, lies over the border in Turkey.

Why introduce holidays to Armenia, I asked Noel Josephides, managing director of our tour company, Sunvil Holidays. "We've been taking business travellers there for two years, but when British Airways, the first foreign airline into the country, started flights via Tbilisi this year, and the lights came back on — literally, for three years after independence there was no electricity — we decided there was enough history and culture to



Goatherds in the foothills of Mount Ararat. There is plenty of culture and history in Armenia to attract tourists who are looking for something different — even if the facilities are not yet up to scratch

attract tourists looking for something different."

Our own introduction was not too promising. "Until recently, Armenia was a Grade E posting, on a par with Angola," said a gloomy United Nations official on our flight to the capital, Yerevan. At the airport we had to face the orgy of form-filling and queuing that was always associated with Soviet bureaucracy, perhaps not entirely surprising since, as we discovered later, the Russians still control the airport, as they do all the border posts.

But things perked up as we ranted towards Yerevan in an ancient coach in the bright morning sunshine. There was a whiff of the Middle East in the air as vendors laid out their piles of watermelons

along the roadside, some arranging huge, plush three-piece suites over the muddy banks, others boiling tea over charcoal braziers. And all the way into Yerevan, the great snowcapped peak of Ararat filled the skyline.

Our hotel, the huge complex Armenia I and its satellite Armenia II, is still in a 1950s time-war, with acres of dark wood and black plastic, and echoing dining rooms.

A middle-aged concierge with a short skirt and heavy mascara guarded my floor, sorting out with mute resignation the problems of my room: lack of loo paper, soap and a broken tap. But the room was clean, and even if the bed was small, there was a TV, and I have slept in lots worse.

Our official sightseeing was in the jolly and capable hands of Roseanne, who used to be a guide for Intourist. "Thousands of visitors used to come here from Moscow on tours of the Caucasus, or to take the mineral waters," she told us wistfully. "We're only just starting to get a trickle back. Some older people miss those days; they didn't have freedom of speech but they did have shoes and jobs."

We met one of Yerevan's older citizens who certainly does not miss the old days. Eighty-year-old Parvir Shavarst spent 20 years in a Siberian camp for speaking out against the old regime and now works at the Matenadaran Museum, a magnificent



Yerevan with Mount Ararat in the background. It is one of the world's safest cities

testament to Armenia's passion for her history and religion. Among the 16,000 ancient manuscripts are faded parchments dating back to the 5th century and beautifully illuminated scripts on law, medicine and astronomy.

The museum helped us to understand our hosts' national pride. High above the city is a symbol of Armenia's more recent tragic history, the Genocide Memorial, which commemorates the massacre of more than a million Armenians by the Turks in 1915, and the scattering of many more.

Yerevan might be safe, but it is hardly cosy: dusty buses and shabby Ladas trundle like Dinky toys around the massive Republic Square, and there is brown scum on the pond where 2,750 fountains, one for each year of the state's existence, line Tigran Mets, its showpiece avenue.

Attempts at Westernisation are beginning to appear in Abovian Avenue, the liveliest of the shopping streets; there is no McDonald's yet, but I spotted boutiques with names such as Valéje of Paris, Milano Modern and even Tiffany Tomato — which, alas, was shut. There is a casino in the

same street, six bookshops and a bustling underground food market.

There is a vitality and colour about the street life that is quite unlike most of the dour former Soviet cities: young women flaunt their way to market swathed in gilt jewellery and bold make-up; snappy male dressers sport black suits with square shoulders, even blacker sunglasses, and talk constantly into their mobile phones, the ultimate status symbol, while older men in neat but shabbier suits sit about playing chess.

Outside Yerevan, there is a well-established milk run for sightseers — unsweetened, however, by adequate tourist facilities. There are hardly any hotels, or even B&Bs or campsites away from the capital, which means you have to return there each night. Public transport is spasmodic and painfully slow — in 100 metres of main road, I counted 80 potholes. Public loos, where they exist, are unspeakable. Yet get out and about you must.

Our first sortie in a tourist bus across the Ararat Valley was a bitersweet experience: fertile soil and benign temperatures nurture vines and tob-

acco and apricots galore, but the landscape is scarred with the detritus of pipes, pylons and empty collective farms; rusting machines lie abandoned like stranded dinosaurs in the middle of the fields where women swathed in headscarves tilted by hand.

Our destination was Artashat, with its ruins of Dvin City, an early Armenian capital and once a trading centre on the Silk Route, and the Khor Virab Monastery where St Gregory the Illuminator, Armenia's first Patriarch, was imprisoned in a pit for 13 years. The bravest of us descended it, emerging chastened, but it was the contemporary scene that engaged our attention.

Below the site, the Turkish border, with its watchtowers and barbed wire, bisects the valley which Mount Ararat brings to a dramatic full stop. Eagerly snapping the captive snowcapped peak so often shrouded in mist, we became tourist attractions for a gaggle of local youths.

They were ragged, cheerful and curious. "Why do you come to Armenia?" "How near is England?" "Don't you think Yerevan is wonderful?" We traded questions and answers: "The Turks fire on us some nights — yes, sometimes we fire back." "Our fathers grow watermelons and cucumbers, but we'd like to live in Yerevan. Our sisters stay at home and don't go out after they're

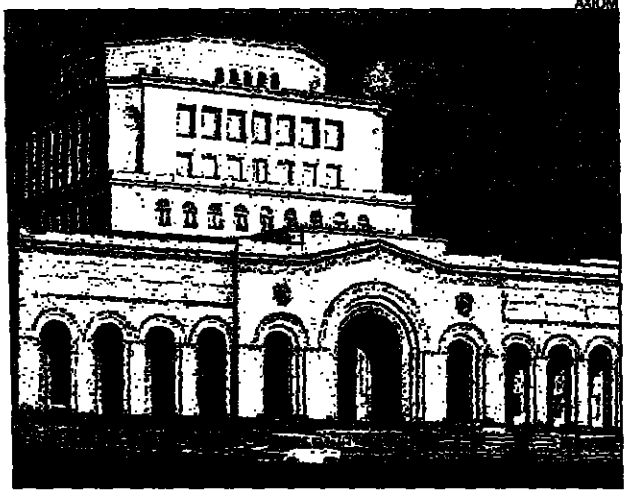
16 years old. Our parents will arrange our marriages."

The spiritual centre of the country, the Cathedral of Echmiadzin, lies 12 miles west of Yerevan. The Archbishop led us through the struggles of the faith during Soviet occupation and the present challenge to restore the hundreds of churches in ruins through earthquakes and neglect.

A coach ride away, at the head of the Dilizhan valley, we climbed a hill on foot to find the Monastery of Agartsin, a tiny, exquisite example of medieval architecture, hidden in the most beautiful and peaceful corner of the country.

Lingering there, we missed our pre-booked lunch and stopped at a dubious-looking roadside cafe that, at 4.30pm, seemed firmly shut. Not a bit of it. Out came a meze of asparagus and wild onions, yoghurt, cheese, tarragon and parsley, heaped kebabs, shashlik, fried potatoes, the local flat lavas bread and cognac, which Winston Churchill preferred to the French variety.

On returning home I spoke to Father David Reynish, Rector of St Margaret's, Iver Heath, who was in one of the first groups of British tourists in Armenia: "Admittedly our transport never got into second gear, and you would need a special interest in history or religion to get the most out of Armenia," he said. "But Agartsin Monastery, in its magical valley, is one of the holy places that has moved me most."



The imposing Republic Square, in the centre of Yerevan

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ARMENIA FACT FILE

■ Getting there: Jill Crawshaw travelled with Sunvil Holidays (brochures 0181-568 4748; reservations 0181-568 4499) which also acts as the National Tourist Office for Armenia.

■ A seven-night escorted tour costs £777 per person, which includes flights with British Airways, transfers, excursions and half-board accommodation at the Armenia II Hotel (best departure September 25). Sunvil also offers seven-night individual holidays from £716 on a B&B basis.

■ Visas, which Sunvil will help you arrange, cost an additional £25. For independent travellers, British Airways (0345 222111) flies to Yerevan three times a week from Heathrow for £499 return plus £20 tax; Armenian Airlines (0171-565 7979) flies once a week from Gatwick for £299 inclusive. Armenia has a US\$20 departure tax.

■ Getting around: Public transport in Yerevan (buses, trolley-buses and metro) is reasonably efficient and cheap. Last theatre and concert performances usually start at 5pm and finish in time for the last train or bus.

■ What to do: With a glut of museums in Yerevan, make time for three of the more unusual collections: the Museum of Sergei Parajanov, with the Dali-esque visions of the dissident and much-acclaimed late film director imaginatively displayed in his former home; The Children's Art Gallery, with its boldly drawn religious and folk themes; the National Art Gallery with an entire floor of Russian and Communist art.

■ An evening at Yerevan's best restaurant, the Ozegeyus, with a meze, trout or kebabs, wine and brandy, accompanied by a mix of gypsy violins and rock'n'roll costs about £12 per head. The Marau wine cellar at the Hotel Armenia I offers similar fare.

■ What to buy: Not a holiday for shopaholics. Best buys are dolls, folk tapes and brandy. Promises of exotic carpets proved a myth.

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السؤال الأول

Goethe, Schiller and a slice of sausage

Weimar, Europe's City of Culture next year, is still a sleepy town full of artistic gems. Catch it while you can, says Sean Coughlan

Until a decade ago, the city of Weimar was locked behind the frontiers of the old East Germany, its elegant squares and faded grandeur gathering dust, hidden far from the Instagram crowds. Today there might be more Mercedes bouncing along its cobbled streets than Frabonis, but Weimar has kept the atmosphere of an old-fashioned provincial capital, carrying its history and its rich artistic legacy with an engaging lack of self-consciousness.

All this is about to change. Next year Weimar is to be the European City of Culture, the first city from the former Soviet bloc to be given the accolade. Thereafter, it is safe to predict, this photogenic little town, with its 18th-century terraces and tree-lined boulevards, will take its place on the conveyor-belt itinerary of Great European Cities.

So if you want to see Weimar before the cultural hordes arrive, you should go now, because next year this historic city is going to be prettified and turned into a high-art theme park for tourists. Already there are buildings under restoration, streets being re-laid, tourist offices opening and signs being erected, as if the city is a stage being dressed for next year's audience.

'Schiller worked day and night on the manuscript that was to become William Tell'

where Goethe lived and died (next year is the 250th anniversary of his birth). Inside this rambling 18th-century town house in the city centre, with its creaking floorboards and comfortable corners, Goethe wrote his masterpiece *Faust*. It is an amiable, sunny house, kept in the style the writer would have known and staffed by curators, who volunteer information about whatever room you are in.

Goethe's contemporary Schiller lived a few blocks away and his house is also open to viewing. This house, bought by the writer in 1802 with "all the money I had and could scratch together", has an air of poignancy. Learning that he was dying and knowing that he needed money to leave to his wife and young family, Schiller took to an upstairs room and wrote day and night in a race against the ultimate deadline. A curator showed me where Schiller sat at his desk, in great pain, drinking black coffee to stay awake. Down the corridor is the room where his children slept, while he scrawled away through the night trying to complete the manuscript that became *William Tell*.

These two literary celebs were brought to Weimar at the invitation of an enlightened autocrat, Duchess Anna Amalia, the widowed feudal ruler of the region and patron of the arts. You can see the duchess's palace — also in the city centre



Splendid statues and impressive architecture make Weimar a worthy candidate for the European City of Culture label

restored to the way it would have been in her time, with its own private theatre and state apartments where she held court among writers, painters and musicians. Likewise, her library, with its lush rococo decorations, is worth a visit, situated near the family castle, also open to the public.

Only a few buildings along from the duchess's palace is a museum dedicated to the work of another of Weimar's artistic offspring. The Bauhaus movement of artists, designers and architects was founded here in 1919, under the directorship of Walter Gropius, and this museum of their early work is a fascinating catalogue of their attempts to create a modern aesthetic with prints, paintings, designs and furniture.

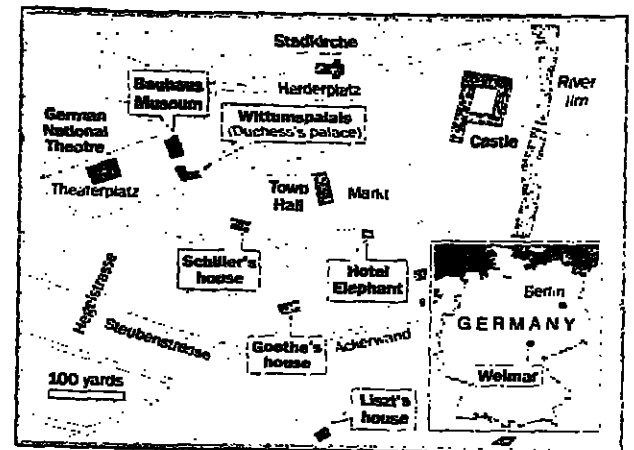
What surprised me so much when I visited is how much of the once outlandish-looking Bauhaus style has been absorbed into mainstream 1990s designs. For example, its aggressively unornamented, simple furniture has undoubtedly influenced Ikea's and MFI's flat-pack masterpieces.

The Bauhaus group was just one component of a wave of artistic experimentation in Weimar Germany: expressionist painters, cabaret singers, novelists and radical politics all contributed to the bohemian reputation of the era. But in contrast to this liberality, the

period also saw the relentless rise in extremism, concluding with the rise to power of the Nazis. There are still remnants of the architectural style of the Nazis. The ancient Hotel Elephant in the medieval market square was a favourite of visiting Nazi dignitaries, so much so that they had the hotel reconstructed in a style they preferred. It still has a strong 1930s look, with the rather militaristic feel that the Nazis brought to their buildings.

It is the stuff of a thousand war films, but when I went down into the beer cellar beneath the hotel I could easily imagine the brush of long leather coats and the click of heels. One guidebook says Hitler drank here, but if so, it is certainly not advertised.

Unlike cities such as nearby Leipzig or Dresden further east, Weimar was not flattened in the war, either by Allied air raids or the advancing Red Army. So its atmosphere is still dominated by the buildings put up in its boom years two centuries ago, with many being much older. I suspect Weimar is how Germany would like to see itself, a united country brought back from the divisions of war, surrounded by a reassuring sense of history, civilised and cultured, yet at the same time provincial and rather homely — metaphorically speaking, with a copy of *Faust* in one hand and a big fat Thuringian sausage in the other.



OUT AND ABOUT IN WEIMAR

■ Sean Coughlan travelled with Moswin Tours (0116-271 4982), which offers three nights' B&B staying at the four-star Dorint Hotel in the city centre from £396. Flights from Heathrow to Leipzig and rail transfers to Weimar are included. Seven nights' B&B at the Dorint cost from £634. The same trips staying at a three-star hotel are from £341 for three nights and £484 for seven nights. Prices based on two sharing. ■ Flights: Lufthansa (0345 737747) has return flights to Leipzig from £135.70 in August and September; you must stay one Saturday night. British Airways (0345 222111) has return flights from Heathrow to Leipzig via Frankfurt from £339 all year round; you must stay one Saturday night. ■ Where to stay: The Dorint Hotel (0049 3643 8720). In August, a single room with breakfast is £64.23 and a double is £78.12. In September, prices go up to £83.33 for a single and £107.65 for a double. ■ Reading: *Germany* (Rough Guide, £14.99); *Germany* (Lonely Planet, £13.99); *Faust* by Johann Wolfgang Goethe (Oxford University Press, Parts One and Two, both £5.99); *Mary Stuart* by Friedrich Schiller (Penguin, £6.99). ■ Information: German National Tourist Office (0171-317 0908).



Goethe and Schiller, Weimar's favourite sons



A young Weimar cyclist

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Venice is on everyone's list to visit at least once during a lifetime which probably explains the high prices of accommodation, not to mention the price of a cup of coffee or a meal. Then, having got there, there is the expense of getting around normally results in the visitor seeing just a fraction of what there is to see in the time allowed. During the months of November and March we shall be operating a series of short cruises on the Swiss-managed MS Venezia which will be our base for visiting Venice itself, the islands of San Giorgio, Murano, Burano and across the lagoon to the ancient port town of Chioggia. The tariff includes return flights from London, transfers and cruise, full board for the duration, accommodation in an outside facing cabin with en suite facilities. UK departure tax and services of a knowledgeable local guide. November and March are ideal months to visit Venice, away from the crowds of summer, with the visitor thus being permitted time and space

to stand and gaze and marvel at it all. The MS Venezia, besides being our accommodation and base from which to explore Venice, is also our means of transportation to the islands on the lagoon, returning to moor in Venice each night.

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Cyber café society

The development of e-mail and the opening of Internet Cafés around the world has made it easier than ever to stay in touch while you're on the road. As we report on page 26, but surely, if you're in darkest Peru or deepest Cambodia, the last thing you want to do is to collect e-mails about the cat's health, Auntie Jerima's bingo win, or the terrible weather in Bridlington? Where is the romance in that?

But there is something terribly romantic about visiting the *poste restante* in a foreign city to collect your mail — even if it is hopelessly out of date by the time you get it. That is partly because anyone who has taken the time to write to you, find an airmail envelope, hunt out your latest address and post the damn thing has made far more effort than someone who has whizzed off a few lines on their office computer. Also, I found that visiting the *poste restante* was a very social activity when I used the system during a six-month trip through Asia in the early Nineties.

I would frequently bump into friends at the large main post office in Bangkok. Once, while leafing through a bundle of mail, I came across some addressed to an old schoolfriend, who turned out to be staying in the hostel next door to mine.

I recall meeting friends in Kathmandu's *poste restante* that I had last seen in Madras, and I remember sitting on the steps of Beijing's *poste restante* reading a letter bringing

bad news of a friend's death. There was the pleasure of returning to Bangkok after a six-week absence to find a mountain of letters, and Saigon's main post office, a beautiful old colonial building, was such a cool haven from the busy streets outside that it was always worth a visit.

In some places, the old-fashioned *poste restante* is being modernised. In Australia two months ago, I noticed at Cairns post office that you could use a computer to check your mail, instead of queuing to ask the assistant. But will cyber cafés ever replace the *poste restante* as a social hub for backpackers? Perhaps, but I fear that, hunched over the computer, travellers will be too obsessed with what is happening back home to notice the new friends they could be making.

IN September Japan Airlines is to ban smoking on all its domestic flights. Smokers flout this ban at some risk: last summer the airline gave its stewards permission to tie up unruly passengers, such as those who have had too much to drink or who abuse staff, and even put tape over their mouths. That ought to stop them lighting up.

I AM fed up with hearing about heatwaves in America, Greece and Italy while we are suffering one of the worst summers in decades. There's only one thing that can cheer us up. They might have the sun, but we have the strong pound, and the whole of that hot old world is just now a bargain for Brits.

TRIP WIRES



by Cath Urquhart

TRAVEL EDITOR

Islands' tourism tax a 'rip off'



How long will visitors appear so happy to be arriving in The Seychelles? Tour operators believe the new tax will deter some, especially families, from visiting the islands

A COMPULSORY £60 fee to enter The Seychelles in the Indian Ocean has been attacked by tour operators complaining of yet another tax on tourism.

Nick Wood, British Airways Holidays' head of purchasing and overseas, said: "The Seychelles tax is the highest mandatory fee I have heard of anywhere in the world. Customers are being ripped off. "Governments around the world see tourism as a soft touch for

The Seychelles is to introduce a hefty tax on tourism, which could deter visitors to the islands, says Jeannette Hyde

revenue and taxes are being introduced under a number of guises." The Seychelles claims the tax, which comes into force on January 1, 1999, will help preserve the environment and improve tourism facilities. It has been given the euphemistic marketing name *The Gold Card*.

The card will give access to national parks, botanical gardens and national heritage sites on the 40-odd islands in the Indian Ocean. But, as Mr Wood pointed out: "All these sites are on different islands which means customers would have to visit a number of islands to get its

value. Most people only go to one or two islands. Travellers already have to pay £20 Air Passenger Duty each to leave the UK and with £60 to enter The Seychelles that will be £80 each. We will appeal to The Seychelles government to change their mind." Deckland Morton, planning man-

ager of long-haul tour operator Hayes and Jarvis, said: "Numbers to The Seychelles will fall as a result of this." About 15,000 Britons visited the Seychelles last year. An existing £12 tax will be absorbed into the £60 fee. Rose Fayon, London-based Seychelles Tourist Office regional manager, said: "There is always the risk that people won't come because of this. People pay about £1,000 each for a package to The Seychelles and £60 is a fraction of that."

Seattle
Rough Guide

Austria (Rough Guides, £10.99)
Strap on your lederhosen and rattle your cow bells: Rough Guides has made it to Austria. This is strong on cultural detail but also offers the low-down on less hallowed but

still popular activities such as snowboarding and clubbing.

If you are looking for somewhere to be sleepless, Rough Guides has added the increasingly fashionable Seattle (£5.99) to its mini-guide series, with sections on Kurt Cobain, poetry "slams" (contests) and, of course, coffee.

Northern Spain (Insight Guides, £16.99)
The north of Spain is often left off the tourist track. This guide offers sections on bull-running in Pamplona, Basque games, the Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao and the highlight of the Middle Ages: the pilgrim route to Santiago de Compostela. The Travel Tips section

includes advice for modern-day pilgrims and conversational openers in the seven languages spoken in the area. Those looking for nightlife will be disappointed — the guide has only a paragraph on each main city.

Croatia: Adriatic Coast (Nelles Guide, £8.95)
Filling the vacuum that is up-to-date guidebooks to Croatia, Nelles Guide is on to a winner. However, this is not the definitive guide: the heavy emphasis on history gives a rather staid impression and descriptions can be vague — at Zelena Laguna, for example, a resort near Porec, "various amenities allow guests to be independent". Nelles is a German company

CROATIA
Rough Guide

and the guide is often awkward in translation: the Sveti Donat church in Zadar, for instance, bizarrely "overpowers the free space around it".

Canada by Tim Jepson (AA Explorer £14.99)
Canada is not often sold as the most exciting of destinations, but this guide may help to change that. Despite some disappointing photographs, Jepson's introduction gives a strong feel for the country, its landscape and the struggling emergence of a national identity. Snippets of legend, history, anecdotes and quotations, presented as soundbites in the margin, are evocative. A separate map is included.
JOANNA HUNTER

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* Fares with Go include tax. Other fares shown exclude tax.
* Prices shown in the left-hand column are the lowest published excursion fares. Prices shown in the right-hand column are the lowest available flexible fares which do not require a Saturday night stay and which, in many cases, allow changes or cancellation without penalty. In all cases you are advised to check the restrictions, if any, when booking.
* Availability is not guaranteed.

PACK YOUR BAGS

If you've always fancied yourself as a swinger, try a golf course for beginners at the Turnberry Hotel (01655 331000), Ayrshire. The package includes three nights' half-board, three individual golf lessons, a nine-hole game with a PGA professional, equipment, use of the pitch and putt area, gym and spa. Cost starts at £750 per person.

France Afloat (0171-704 0700) is offering an eight-berth luxurious boat for £1,788 on the Canal du Nivernais in Burgundy, departing on August 1 and 8. A six-berth cruiser has been reduced from £1,245 per week to £871, departing on August 14.

For those feeling the call of the black stuff, Jessave (0870 609 0909) is offering two nights' B&B in Dublin starting at £209 per person, including return flights from selected regional airports and transfers and taxes.

Art of Travel is offering child-friendly African safaris

aimed at ages from eight upwards (0171-738 2038). The two-week itinerary includes visits to the Kwando Lagoon and the bushmen of the Kalahari, and starts at £2,849 per adult and £2,225 per child, based on four travelling together. The price includes return flights Heathrow to Harare, air transfers, two nights' B&B at Victoria Falls, five nights' full board in Kwando and three nights' full board in Jack's Camp. All park fees are included, but not departure tax. Departs daily.

Children aged between two and 11 stay free at selected hotels in Malia with Caogon Holidays (01703 828313) when they share with two adults. Seven nights' B&B at the Westins Dragonara Resort, for example, including return flights from Gatwick and transfers, starts at £552 per adult and £196 per child. Departs Mondays to Thursdays.

Start spreading the news: Airline Network (01772 727272) is offering direct flights to New York from Heathrow, Manchester, Birmingham and Glasgow for £369 per person including tax for travel between August 1-31. Bookings must be made by July 31.

JOANNA HUNTER

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Fast action a smart policy for travellers

Insurance Premium Tax is set to rise, says Jeannette Hyde

If you have already booked next year's holiday, but not your travel insurance, you could save money by buying it in the next seven days before many policies go up in price.

On August 1, Insurance Premium Tax will rise from 4 per cent to 17.5 per cent on travel insurance policies sold by brokers or direct insurers, to bring the tax into line with that on policies sold by travel agents or tour operators.

This means an average two-week European policy will go up by between £2 and £5 while an annual policy will go up by between £10 and £15. If you are planning trips in the next year it may be worth taking out an annual travel policy before the rise.

Age Concern this week made a plea to older people, who are more likely to travel regularly, to buy now. The charity is worried that the increased tax could put people off buying cover at all.

According to researchers Mintel, 16 per cent of 55 to 64-year-olds travel abroad three or more times a year, compared with just 11 per cent of adults as a whole.

Some insurance companies say they are planning to absorb the tax themselves, or raise prices slightly, but it is unclear how long they will keep swallowing the extra cost.

The following companies say they will pass the cost on to customers: Direct Line (0181-680 2121), Worldwide Travel Insurance Services (01892 833338), and Travel-Plan Direct (0800 0188 747). Club Direct (0800 074 4556) will absorb the cost for now, and Columbus Direct (0171-375 0011) is adding part of the tax to some policies.

A Direct Line spokeswoman said: "Some companies are trying to get short-term business by swallowing the tax, but it is questionable if it is sustainable in the long-term."

For those buying cover through a travel agent or tour operator, the tax is already 17.5 per cent.

TRAVELLERS' TIP

Arriving at an unknown airport or train station after a long journey can be disconcerting, especially if you are being hassled by taxi drivers or hotel touts. To avoid this aggravation, I go straight to the left-luggage depot and get rid of my bags. Free of baggage, I can coolly reply to anyone hassling me that I have a room, leaving me free to orientate myself.
— Tom Rothwell, Somerset

Send your suggestion, in no more than 75 words, on a postcard to: Travellers' Tip, The Times Travel Desk, 1 Pennington St, London E1 9XN, with your name, address and daytime telephone number. If yours is published, you will win the Lonely Planet guidebook and phrase book of your choice.

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TRAVEL TIPS by Jill Crawshaw



TRAVEL JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR

Exotic ways to say 'I do'

BRITISH couples are looking overseas for romance — with an increasing number of people choosing to get married in foreign climes. Kuoni Travel is reporting a 30 per cent increase in its Weddings Abroad programme for 1998, with Sri Lanka overtaking the Caribbean as the top spot to tie the knot. For next year, Switzerland and the flat little Turks and Caicos Islands, south of the Bahamas, are being touted as the hot new wedding destinations.

The average price for the ceremony itself is £350 to £400 per couple, which includes dealing with red tape, providing the marriage licence and certificate, the bouquet and cake. It can even extend to providing the Best Man, Witnesses and Maid of Honour.

Some "optional extras" are mind-boggling: in Sri Lanka, you can get married to the sound of Kandyan drummers and dancers (£160), take a 15-minute elephant

ride for £95 (a bullock cart is cheaper at £60), or trade traditional white for local costume and jewellery for £120.

Cut-price weddings are popular in the Caribbean — providing you take enough guests. If you can rustle up ten or more, prepared to pay between £1,550 and £1,836 for an all-inclusive fortnight at the Wyndham Morgan Bay hotel in the Bahamas, you can fly, stay and get married free. Kuoni's wedding department is on 01306 747007.

YHA goes green

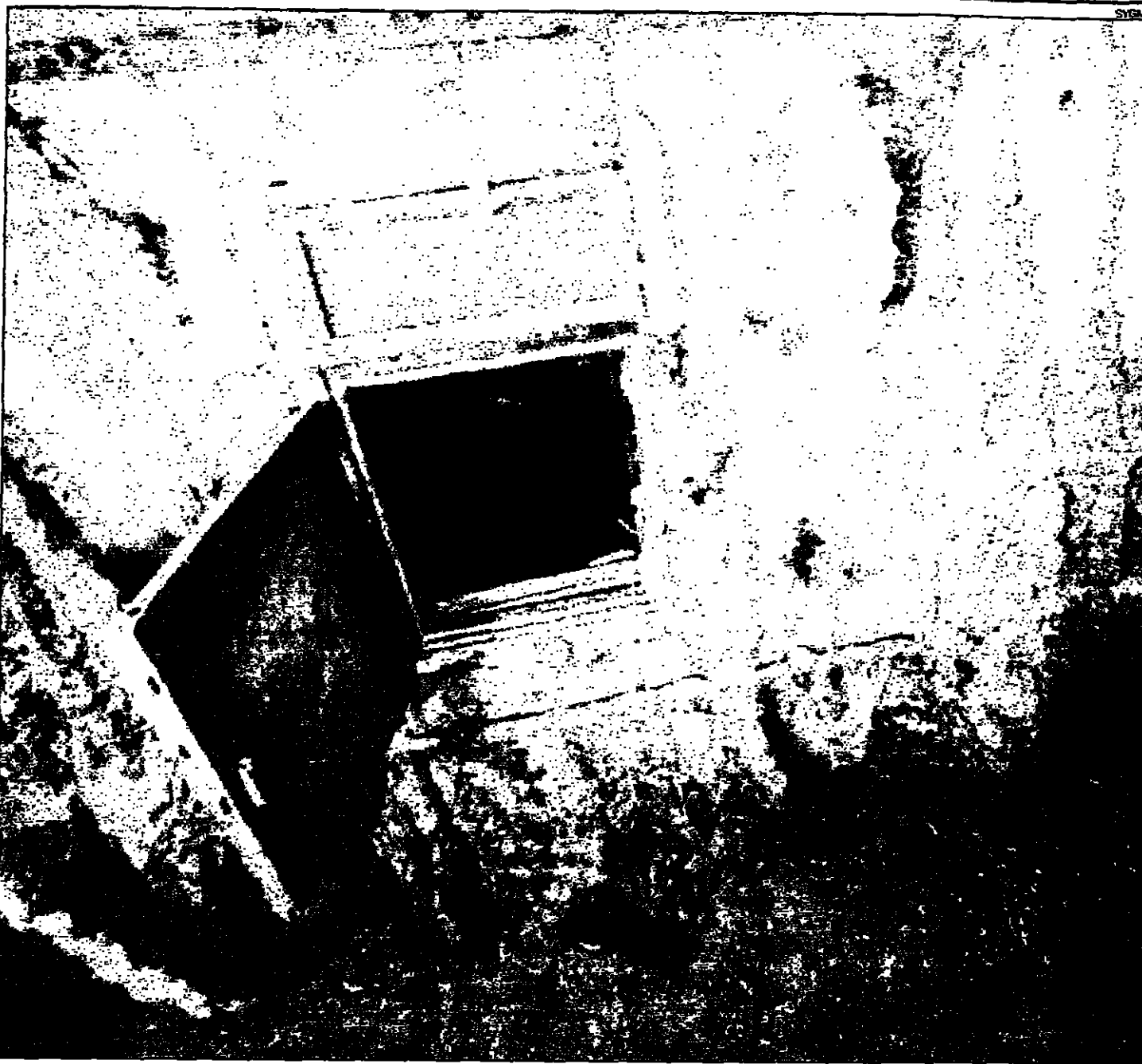
THE YHA's most environmentally friendly hostel has just opened in Rob-in Hood country on the edge of Sherwood Forest Country Park. Its roof insulation is made from recycled paper, water is reclaimed from the roof and car park, and heating is provided by heat exchangers using warm air from the kitchen and bathrooms. Overnight stays cost £9.75 for adults, £6.55 for under-18s.

Another new hostel opens in Liverpool next month with B&B costing £15.75 per adult, £11.75 for under-18s. Annual membership is £10 for adults, £5 for under-18s. YHA information: 01727 845047.

FIND FOOD for free by studying wild plants in Cornwall, paint your own landscape, learn to work in stone, or discover how to play Tudor instruments on one of the National Trust's special events at its properties throughout the year. More than 100 courses, some free, others costing between £1 and £30 are listed in its *Have a Go* guide, available by phoning the NT on 0181-315 1111.

Tragic princess

A REAL fairytale princess, Austria's Empress Elisabeth — Sisi to her friends — died 100 years ago this September, and a host of events and exhibitions will commemorate this intriguing woman,



You've seen the movie, now explore the wreck. Daring — and wealthy — explorers have the chance to see the *Titanic* underwater

The trip also includes elephant-back game viewing in Kazi National Park and a visit to Cherrapunji, reputedly the wettest place on earth. The cost is £2,495 for flights to Calcutta and accommodation with full board.

Another new venture for Western & Oriental: mahseer fishing on the Ramganga River — the largest recorded mahseer caught weighed 66lbs. A two-week tour with four days' fishing, game viewing and hill-station visits costs £2,200 fully inclusive.

COUNTLESS queries about holiday locations linked to Heidi, the mythical Swiss miss of the *Flower-Brads* and squeaky-clean image, have prompted the Switzerland Travel Centre (0171-734 4577) to create a HeidiLand Tour in eastern Switzerland. The four-day tour for independent travellers includes visits to see how cheeses and butter are made, a night in an old chalet and a chance to wallow in hot thermal springs. The cost is £399 for adults, £179 for children under 12, which covers flights, internal transport, accommodation and most meals and excursions.

At the deep end

THE film *Titanic* has inspired enormous enthusiasm among holidaymakers for underwater exploration. Adventure travel company Zegrahm Deep Sea Voyages (001 206 285 3743) is organising several submersible expeditions this year and next. Submersibles are deep-diving submarines used to observe shipwrecks and marine life.

Though part of a scientific survey, it's the first time non-scientist passengers will be able to explore the actual wreck of the *Titanic* that sank on April 14, 1912 — at a price. A nine-day expedition, leaving on August 30, costs \$32,500 (about £20,300) per person, and passengers with large wallets will find themselves plunging more than 12,000 feet in the same MIR submersible used to capture the breathtaking images in James Cameron's blockbuster.

Next spring another seven-day expedition is to take place under the ice of the Arctic Circle to view the wreck of *HMS Breamdale*, which sank in 1853. The cost for this expedition is \$6,000-\$10,000. Information: Visit Canada Centre (0891 715000).

Travel articles appearing in *The Times* since last January are on our Internet site. See "Most Recent" links on <http://www.the-times.co.uk>



Empress Elisabeth is the subject of a series of events in Austria

a compulsive traveller, keen horse-woman and dieting fanatic.

She married Emperor Franz Josef in 1855, giving birth to three daughters and a son, but her married life reads like one long tragedy. It included the suicide of her son, Crown Prince Rudolph, in 1889.

At the age of 60 she was stabbed by a young anarchist on her travels, and died of her wounds. You can learn more about her in the

long-running musical *Elisabeth*, which can be seen daily (except Wednesdays) at the Theatre an der Wien in Vienna.

An exhibition "Elisabeth — Beauty for Eternity" is taking place in Vienna's Schönbrunn Palace until next February, and the play *Sisi* is at the Schönbrunn Palace Theatre until August 15.

Details from the Austrian National Tourist Office (0171-629 0461).

Intriguing India

"THEY'RE so far off the beaten track that even Indians themselves thought we were brave introducing a tour to Arunachal Pradesh, Assam and Meghalaya," says a spokesman for Western & Oriental Travel (0171-313 6600).

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Sandwiched between Tibet, Bhutan and Bangladesh, these remote lands of tribes, tea planters and rain clouds have only recently been opened up — in Arunachal, the maximum stay allowed is still only ten days.

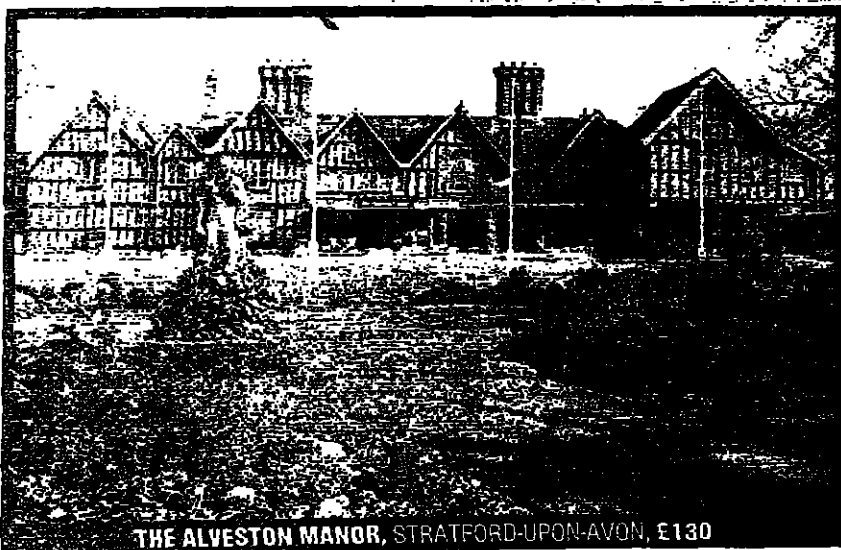
The 16-day Eastern Frontiers tour (for a minimum of four people) is not for those who need luxury and culture; accommodation is in clean but simple guest houses in tribal villages.

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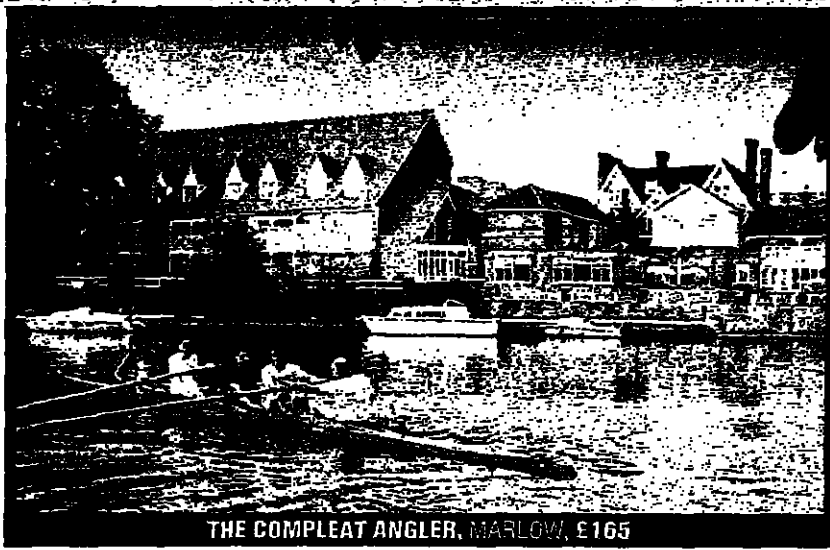
THE TIMES

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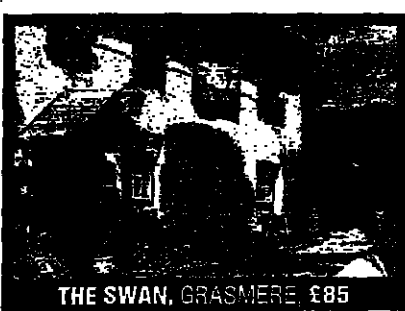
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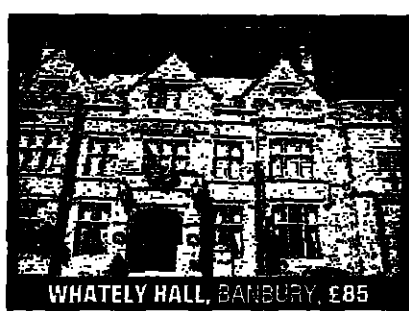
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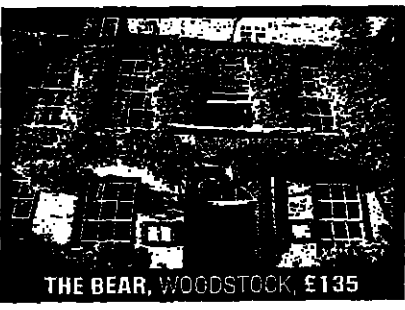
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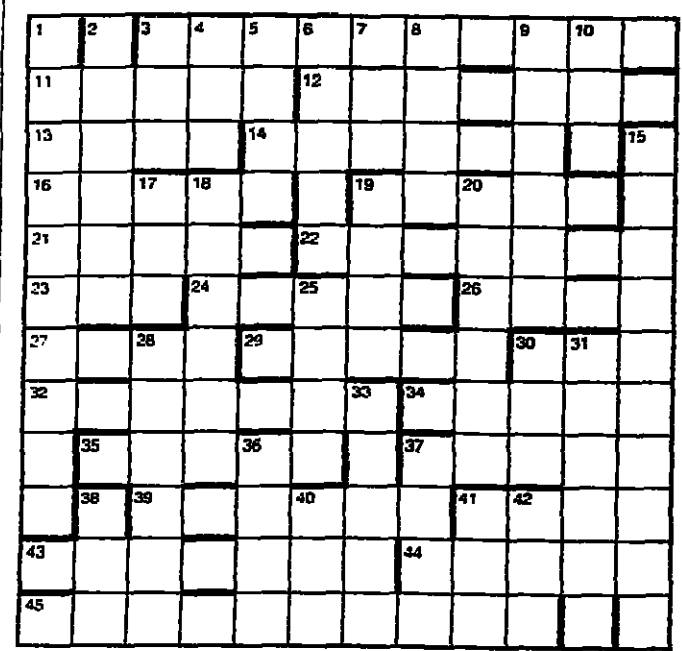
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THE LISTENER CROSSWORD

No. 3472: Marital Progression by Gnivri



LISTENER CROSSWORD No 3472 in association with Waterstone's

NAME: ADDRESS:

Cut out and send the completed crossword and coupon above to The Listener Crossword No 3472, 63 Green Lane, St Albans, Hertfordshire AL3 6HE, by Thursday, August 6.

Waterstone's logo and promotional text: 'The winner will receive a Waterstone's book token worth £75. Five runners-up will each receive a book token worth £10.'

The 13 unclued lights comprise an observation by an English Lord Chancellor. Twelve clued answers must have a letter removed before entry into the grid; these discarded letters can be rearranged to form the author of the quotation. Numbers at the end of the clues refer to the lengths of the diagram entries.

- ACROSS: 11 Growing out of leaderless governing body (5) 12 Sea-going cavalryman? (7) 13 China's number one language (4) 14 Symphonist born unusually senile (6) 15 Leaders turn back in intellectualism amiably displayed (5) 16 Nurse with silly plait (5) 17 Fabric Enid changed then married (5) 18 Differential perhaps, stone certainly (7) 19 Indian PM has a side in turmoil... (5) 20 ... their Peasant's Revolt, reportedly (4) 21 Horse having soft saddle - right in the middle (4) 22 One piece of wood in sporting success as Henry VI, say (7) 23 Those inebriated show net result (5) 24 Theban king's castle at which Nero's fiddled (5) 25 Valuation - not half - for brainless Boeotians (5) 26 Storm centre, perhaps, up to the brim (6) 27 Ghana uprising includes a king, at least a leader (7, two words) 28 Learn about yellow rail (5) 29 The German quots as pocket pistols (10)

- DOWN: 1 Order for fliers: diet or apple crumble (10) 2 Lining for food utensils in French cooked meal (6) 3 State has nothing within, just fuel (3) 4 Noticeable features of The Listener (3) 5 Film of odd characters from play to Ian Hay (5) 6 Lone curls constituting the top of the head for Shakespeare (4) 7 Just takes gym in full view (6) 8 Deal of US - but recently discovered? (3) 9 East European spinning an endless walse (4) 10 Indication of resignation (4) 11 Flyer with passengers, a light breeze conveyer (6) 12 Son casts line for bass - whoppers (3) 13 Agreement on Eastern Cape (6) 14 Source of exotic cargoes ruined at the beginning of prohibition (4) 15 Autograph letter signed initially in iron? Forged! (4) 16 Cooler follower (3) 17 The dawning of a new day and a choice of letters (3) 18 Hesitant disclosures leading to vetch (3)

INTERSECTIONAL MORION PURRILE PLASMAIDURRILLAGES AWNEEDRCONSTANT IMSLIESONHOSEA ROPESHONEGRANT PROSPEREDASPFOTRLOBARKEEPEER SATESTRILLSETSTRAGITANNICAE CJCATRIXOCARAT ABETIDOVIRENTRULEOPUSEMERGED DGENERALLISSE

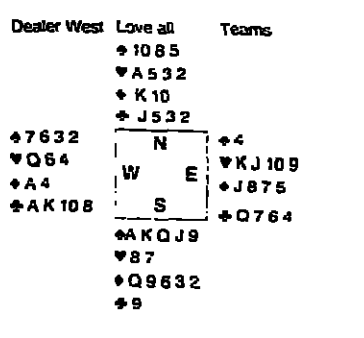
Solution and notes for No. 3469 Fourth of July by Mass. STATE clues: (Across) 1 cut, 35 carol, 44 scar, 51 law, 52 ode, 54 GI; (Down) 1 mar, 2 van, 4 gin, 7 Erse, 8 MFs, 19 set, 43 new. Answers with (abbreviated) States: (Across) 13 Graille, 20 constRatInt, 28 Vagrant, 37 Consents, 47 caMass-rat; (Down) 6 Patron, 9 Scale, 15 doNJon, 17 gNash, 36 raNCid, 40 Maced, 43 Declares, 49 BuNDy. Extra letters in clues: A CONSTITUTIONAL TAKEN BY UNCLE SAM. The winner is John Walsh, of Swindon, Wiltshire. The runners up are B.H. Holland, of London; Mary Vincent, of Bristol, Avon; Roger Naylor, of Bradford, West Yorkshire; Roger Tiedeman, of Hazelbury Bryan, Dorset; Dr R.J. Bell, of Hampton, Greater London.

BRIDGE

by Robert Sheehan

THE United States has just held the first of its trials to select teams for the Bermuda Bowl (the world championship) in 2000 - surely some kind of record in advance planning. The Nickell team were the winners. The USA is allowed two teams and is choosing the second by trials to be held in 1999. Britain will play in the event if it is in the first five of the 1999 European Championship. Zia Mahmood went down in this game from the trials. Embarrassingly for him, other declarers demonstrated the correct technique.

and Zia ruffed, played a diamond to the king and ran the ten of diamonds. West won the ace and played a third club. Zia ruffed and discovered too late that he could no longer make the hand. He tried to crossruff, but the defenders were able to lead a trump when they won the king of hearts, and could collect a winner at the end, since West had trump control. Zia had made a fatal error on the third club. At another table, Larry Cohen for the Cayne team, in the same contract and with the first four tricks going as at Zia's table, made the winning play of discarding a heart on the third club. Now he was in control. If the defence continued with a fourth club declarer could play a complete crossruff, since he no longer needed to concede a tempo by giving up a heart. Thus he would make three ruffs in dummy, to go with five spades in hand, the ace of hearts and a diamond trick. West would have done no better had he shifted to a trump. Declarer would simply have ruffed one diamond, drawn trumps and scored two diamond tricks at the finish.



Contract: Four Spades by South Lead: King of clubs. East-West's decision to compete to Three Clubs should have warned Zia of a possible bad trump split. West led two rounds of clubs.

TGR Promotions is holding an auction pairs tournament at the Landmark Hotel in London from August 14-16. Entry fee £1,000 per pair, spectators welcome. Enquiries: 0171-706 2404. The Times Book of Bridge 1, by Robert Sheehan, is available from bookshops, or from Batsford 01376 321276, at £6.99 plus p&p £1.

WORD ANSWERS

- Answers from page 36: ARAPONGA (b) The campanera or bell-bird of South America. FOUETTE (c) In ballet, a dancer stands on one point and executes a sideways whipping movement with the free leg, while turning on the point. CASSATA (c) A Neapolitan ice-cream with candied fruit and nuts. ANCONA (a) An altar-piece, especially one consisting of a group of pictures or

TWO BRAINS

- Answers from page 36: Question 1: 1926. All the others are leap years. Question 2: Frederick John Perry - tennis champion, Matthew Perry - US Naval Commander who opened relations with Japan, Perry Mason - fictional lawyer, Perry White - editor of the Daily Planet in the Superman series, The Peer and the Peri is the subtitle to the opera Iolanthe.

CHESS

by Raymond Keene

ON MONDAY the Smith and Williamson British Chess Championship starts at the Riviera Centre in Torquay, finishing on August 7. There is a first prize of £10,000, which has attracted many strong British players. It is hoped that Nigel Short and Michael Adams will both be in the final line-up. The championship is an 11-round Swiss system contest. This week's game is taken from Michael Adams's recent victory against Jonathan Rowson. The comments are based on Adams's own insights from the British Chess magazine.

White: Jonathan Rowson; Black: Michael Adams. London, Match (game 5) 1998 Sicilian Defence. 1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 d4 exd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Ne3 e5 6 Nd5 d6 7 Nc5 Nxd5 8 exd5 Nb8

An alternative is 8... Ne7 9 c3, creating the possibility of Qa4. 9 a4 9 e4 is more common here. 9... Be7 10 Be2 0-0 11 0-0 Nd7 12 Be3

Game one of the match saw 12 f4 a6 13 Na3 b5 14 Kh1 bxa4 15 Nc4 exd4 16 Bd2 when White had a good position. 12... a6 13 Na3 15 14 13 14

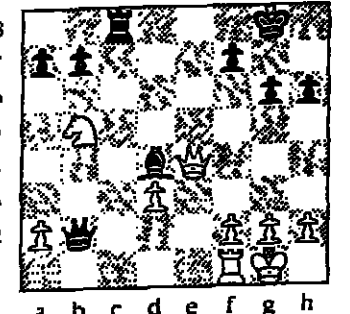
Although this advance hands the e4-square to White, in this particular case, not anti-positional. White is unable to use the e4-square to great effect, and meanwhile Black gains valuable terrain for a future attack against the white king. 15 Bf2 Qe8

This is not the most accurate way for Black to play. Better is 15... Rf6, intending... Rh6 and keeping... Bh4 as a possibility. Black ends with his important pieces as targets on the kingside. 16 Nc4 Qh5 17 Kh1 Rf6 18 g4 fxe3 19 Bxe3 Rg6 Possible is 19... Qf7, but after 20

WINNING MOVE

by Raymond Keene

BLACK to play. This position is from the game Baron v Hernandez, Havana 1998.



The black bishop is very powerfully posted in the centre of the board. How did Black make the most of the pressure created by this piece? The first correct answer drawn on Thursday will win a year's subscription to the Staunton Society. Answers on a postcard please addressed to Winning Move competition, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The answer will be published next Saturday. Solution to last week's competition: 1 b5. The winner is R. Bales, of Chingford, Greater London.

COMPUTER GAMES AND PASTIMES

by Tim Wapshott

A LONDON friend has decided she wants to buy a property in the country, favouring one of three counties in the West. She wondered if the Internet has made inroads into the house-hunting process. Estate agency on the Internet is a random directory of the current property market. In no way can it be considered definitive, merely a minor aid to any search. The most useful way the Internet can help in property searches is simple enough: display pictures of properties for sale. A picture is worth a thousand words, nowhere more so than when it comes to house-hunting. Unfortunately, nine times out of ten any specific search of a region turns up text-only particulars.



Try surfing the Internet when looking to buy a new house

Search for Estate Agents using the Yahoo UK and Ireland database and 81 sites crop up. The vast majority of these are specific sites for specific companies, a mix of independents and countrywide chains. Finding something more encompassing is not so easy. HouseNet (http://www.housenet.co.uk/) is a stab at something more satisfying. Here the UK and Ireland have been carved up into 11 clearly marked regions, all of which can be searched for properties by house type, price and

number of bedrooms. To begin a search, click on answers to four questions: area, type, price and beds. Area is the region, type is the kind of property (bungalow, end of terrace or semi-detached), the price range rises in £30,000 increments and bedroom range is one to six. Up pops a list of considerations with ID numbers and location.

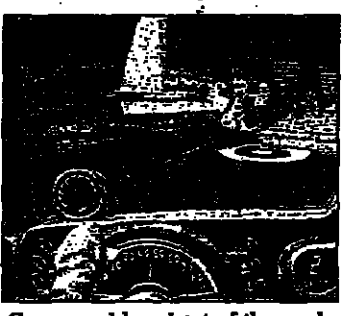
Click on these for a capsule text description of the property plus a contact name, number and e-mail address. The site also offers lists of estate agents by region with addresses and telephone (but not fax) numbers. The site operates free to members of the public who can add details of their own properties for inclusion in the listings.

Property Sight (http://www.property-sight.co.uk/) covers England, Wales and Scotland, the Channel Islands and "the rest of Europe" (but not Northern Ireland, the Republic of Ireland or the Isle of Man). This site boasts a more articulate search engine, covering demands such as urban or rural environments and property age, defined as postwar, pre-war and newly built. Featured properties appear with lengthy details and, occasionally, a colour photograph of the building. Hitting the "rest of Europe" turns up an eclectic selection. You can opt to view properties in a handful of countries, most notably Cyprus, France, Italy and Spain. The cheapest property currently in the portfolio is a two-bedroom bungalow in Majorca for a mere £32,000 (no picture). Homer Simpson makes an unlikely appearance at the site for Homes for Sale (http://www.homes-uk.co.uk/hfs-home-uke.html). Should your search of this property database produce nothing, up pops a message saying so and showing the great yellow American. UK Property (http://www.uk-property.com/uk/) also sells itself as a one-stop nationwide property shop although this is still under

construction and the search engine stalled on my visit. When it does work, you should be able to search for properties by location and type. The site does, however, already offer a selective list of agents by county or postcode, in the case of London, with details including fax numbers and, where applicable, e-mail addresses. As for the "Independent Estate Agents on the Internet", they seem to have gone missing. Their site cropped up on Yahoo's list and this seemed like another good starting place for property-seekers, but clicking on the address merely produced the knee-jerk message, "File Not Found". HARRISON FORD lit up the sky in Air Force One, playing a Rambo-esque president who does not take kindly to the terrorist kidnapping of his plane. You may not follow in Ford's footsteps but with the latest add-on for Microsoft's Flight Simulator 98 you pilot two Air Force Ones, the VC-25A and VC-137B, plus three other craft. Special Air Mission, £19.95 from Data Becker (01420 22707), includes a scenario flying the president safely from Moscow to London.

NEW SOFTWARE

LUTON-BASED Megamedia UK is a new company specialising in budget compilations. Its debut title is Mega3Pak Volume 1 which features last year's blockbuster from Sales Curve Interactive, Carmageddon, as well as Microprose's X-Com Apocalypse and Estatica II from Psygnosis.



Carmageddon, best of the pack

The best of the bunch is Carmageddon, the highly destructive futuristic racing game. Driving a choice of 25 vehicles, as well as collecting bonuses, you must mow down rooster pedestrians and slam into your opponents' vehicles until they are written off - they can only take so much hammering before bursting into flames. They will also do their best to smash into you but, so long as you can afford it, hitting the instant repair button will fix any sustained collision damage. In X-Com Apocalypse the world is under attack from aliens and it is up to you to stem their progress. The strategy title, which lacks a decent tutorial mode, is an immersing experience offering real-time fighting action and turn-based tactical gaming.

Estatica II is an action adventure set in a massive 3D world littered with characters and magic weapons. The game looks great thanks to its fine graphics and generous multiple camera angles. The Eliza ratings for Carmageddon and Estatica II deem them suitable for players aged 12 and over. Verdict: 8 out of 10. Trio of titles easily worth a tenner each. £29.99.

ACTIVISION'S Vigilante 8 is a driving shoot 'em up along the lines of Carmageddon which earns slightly more points for presentation than actual performance. Spawned by the current 1970s

revival, the game opens stylishly with a choice of characters most comfortable in Afro haircuts, bell-bottom trousers and pre-Spice Girl platform shoes. There is a generous selection of a dozen supercharged vehicles which delightfully crash into view when chosen, then rock enticingly on their shock absorbers. In practice, the PlayStation game does not live up to such classy beginnings. There is a choice of two views - cockpit or behind the car - but the vehicle weaponry can take some mastering. All 12 3-D areas and arenas are destructible and the explosions are satisfying. But a few of the vehicles have all the manoeuvrability of a Tesco shopping trolley. In two-player mode, two players can opt to compete or collaborate and wipe out computer-generated opponents. The graphics seem to suffer in split-screen mode, losing definition and becoming patchy. The throbbing sound effects and score mean this is a game best played in short, sharp bursts. It is frenzied and frantic but lacks the grace of a true swinger like Carmageddon. Verdict: 7 out of 10. Another driving-combat capcr. £39.99.

SOLUTION TO JUMBO 175

A large crossword grid with the words SCAMPI, SWINGMUSIC, AVALANCHE, H L A P H I O W A V N T O X, APPURTENANT, CHATSWORTHHOUSE, M H D A T R K D U N I E R T, AYATOLLAH, OPHIDIAN, UNCLOTHE, N C N A G E L L T E S B R, STEAMSHOVEL, REINTRODUCTION, N E A E Y O N Y O T A U V, CATO, PLAYACTING, WATERENGINE, O A U F O E C C A H O L R, USUFRACTUARY, ULTRASONICALLY, N R E A I U O D H A O R, THIRTYSECONDNOTE, TEMPERANCE, E H T A E D H C L A E V, REPEATEDLY, SEVENHILLSOFROME, C E N L C R S I T R N R, HORSEARTILLERY, BLACKTREACLE, E F I T A E E L O E E E N, CHEVALGLASS, PERSIMMONS, QUAD, K C D O D S R G C E S C P, ETINARCADIAEGO, ONTHEWAYOUT, A N O M O Y C S S I N O U N H, BLUEMOON, MAJESTIC, BATTLEAXE, A M I R V L N E A L A D T S, CABINETMINISTER, ROOMSERVICE, U E A I E S E O N W K O M U, SCROLLSAW, MIDDLEEAST, ENGELS

The winner of five Oxford University Press reference books is T.W. Holt of Macclesfield, Cheshire

MODERN MANNERS

by John Morgan

Send your queries to Morgan's Modern Manners, The Times, Weekend, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN

QI find myself at functions which take place in gardens and marquees. The problem is that speeches or toasts often intrude without warning as we are sipping champagne and conversing, inevitably standing away from any convenient surface on which to set down the glass. The result is an embarrassingly feeble ripple of applause as we try not to spill the precious liquid. Some get around this by putting the glass down on the grass, where it usually falls over, or even between their knees, which looks inelegant. Others down the wine swiftly and put the glass in their pocket. I usually hold the glass steady, while flapping my free hand to mime applause, thus showing appreciation without generating a sound. Short of not drinking at all, is there a better way to cope? — Professor F.W. Taylor, Headington, Oxford.

A Having been in your position many times I have perfected my own method of accommodating a glass while not only clapping, but standing up, holding a plate and eating with a fork. The secret is to nestle your left arm close to your side and cradle the bulb of the glass in the crook of your elbow while resting the base on your left hip-bone. With a little practice, it is remarkably secure, discreet and elegant.

cause offence to the parents of a bride and any offer of financial help must be proffered gently. The most subtle is an indirect inquiry via the bride and groom. Of course the groom's parents have a say with the guest list: the usual allocation is up to a third, regardless of the amount of money they sink into the event. The selection of bridesmaids is entirely up to the bride who is under no obligation to include the sister of her groom. However, many do in the cause of good-mannered inter-familial harmony.

QI am in the habit of typing personal letters on my trusty 35-year-old manual typewriter. If I send more than one page, is it bad form for me to staple the pages together? Of course, in a business letter this is helpful, but it may be more elegant to leave personal letters unstapled. — Caroline Dodds, Benfleet, Essex.

A Staples are seriously secretarial, and should not be used for private correspondence.

QIn a recent Times Weekend you gave useful advice on how to reply to formal invitations, but you omit any mention of the form one should adopt with "at homes". — Name and address withheld.

A Responses to "at homes" follow the formal third person format and mirror the wording on the invitation card. A typical reply would be: "Mr and Mrs Brian Blunt thank Mrs Susan Sharpe for the kind invitation to her at home for Samantha on Saturday July 25, which they accept with much pleasure."

QOn taking an aircraft seat, can one expect to be able to make use of an armrest or is it first come first served? A late-boarding passenger who has been allocated a middle seat often finds himself sitting down with the armrests on both sides fully occupied. Should one make a polite request for elbow room to one of the adjacent seated passengers: wait until one of them momentarily raises an arm and then discreetly acquire the armrest; nudge gently to co-share an armrest; or keep your arms to yourself until arrival? — Paul Manson, Deggendorf, Germany.

AThe pursuit and acquisition of personal space has become an exact science of the air. The first solution would appear arch and is most likely to be ignored, thus causing unwanted ill-feeling. The third is likely to engender an even more negative reaction and the last is taking self-effacing sacrifice too far. Go for the second which perfectly encapsulates the democratic nature of mass air travel.

QWedding costs are more frequently shared than before. However, care must be taken not to



WORD WATCHING

by Philip Howard

ARAPONGA
a. A noxious miasma
b. A bird
c. A poisoned arrow

FOUETTE
a. A horsewhip
b. A madwoman
c. A twirl

CASSATA
a. A card game
b. A conservatory sunlounge
c. An ice-cream

ANCONA
a. An altar-piece
b. A goat-cart
c. A pointed hat

Answers on page 35

TWO BRAINS

by Raymond Keene

According to the magazine of Mensa, the high IQ society, women with high IQs are likely to maintain reproductive ability longer than those with lower intelligence. The relationship between the start of the menopause and intellectual ability is thought to be due to the complex genetic link between the brain and the womb environment. Mensa also reports women who scored low IQ results had an earlier menopause. To join Mensa call 01902 772771 or write c/o Mensa House, St John's Square, Wolverhampton WV2 4AH.

Question 1
Which is the odd one out? 1916, 1926, 1936, 1956, 1976?

Question 2
Distinguish between Frederick John Perry, Matthew Perry, Perry Mason, Perry White, The Perry and the Peri.

Answers on page 35

CROSS WORDS

by Ross Beresford

One feature of the Listener Crossword that differentiates it from normal cryptic puzzles is the occasional use of non-standard clue types. In this article, I will introduce the most common forms. In "Misprint" clues, the wordplay indicators lead to the answer as normal, but the definition has one letter misprinted. For example, He rounds bend without speed (8) leads to UNHORSED, since the real definition is "without speed". "Letters Latent" clues involve a modified answer — the definition suggests the complete answer, but the wordplay leads to the answer with one letter omitted wherever it occurs. Thus

Unsteady, having drunk retsina (10) might clue STAGGERING, with G as the latent letter, and STAGERIN is entered in the grid. A "Definition and Letter Mixture" clue contains a definition, but the wordplay indicators are replaced by an anagram embedded within the clue. For example, A bouncy castle is entertaining (7) could lead to ELASTIC, with CASTLE I as the letter mixture and "bouncy" the definition. A "Printer's Devilry" clue is even more unconventional, having no definition. You have to imagine that the printer has removed the answer from a sentence to form the clue, possibly adjusting word breaks to make

sense of the result. So LIVER could be clued by British tourists find bay hot (5) (the undevilled version being British tourists find Bali very hot). Listener Crossword sometimes incorporates minor variants of these basic types, but preambles forewarn solvers when special clues are involved. In addition, a thematic message may emerge when solving such clues to compensate for the extra effort. For example, in a puzzle with "Letters Latent" clues, the omitted letters, taken in order, may spell out a message (often hinted at by the title of the puzzle). **The writer is co-editor of the Listener Crossword.**

PICTURE LINE



Behind every great man is a great crane

READERS are invited to suggest what was said when TV presenter Anthea Turner met Jonathan Coleman.

This picture will appear again next week with an entry chosen from those submitted. Send your "speech bubble" suggestions — only on postcards please — to: PictureLine, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN.

The Editor's decision is final. The closing date for entries is Wednesday, July 29. Last week's winning caption (left) was submitted by Mr Livinus J.J. Dorrian of Greenwich, London.



QUOTES OF THE WEEK

"When you do a gas the gas comes out of the car and if the car's not moving you get less gas." — John Prescott unveils his transport white paper in the House of Commons.

"I couldn't put into words how much I hated it. It looked like a cheap set for some kind of murder mystery weekend." — Susan Dukes on a surprise decoration make over of her dining room by the BBC's Changing Rooms series.

"It is inhabited by the young and the different live there." — Home Office Minister Lord Williams appeals to peers to think of the "homosexual outside" when voting on the age of homosexual consent.

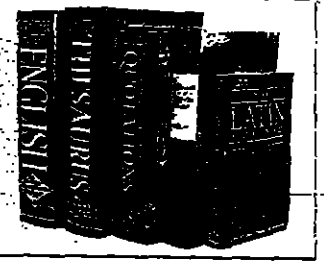
"He said he was getting through half a bottle of vodka before he gets out of bed in the morning." — Patient at drying-out clinic where Coronation Street star Kevin Kennedy (Curly Watts) is being treated.

"Silly old fool. I pushed him into a rose bush for that." — Anna Ford recalls when Sir Robin Day told her she got a job as newsreader only because men wanted to sleep with her.

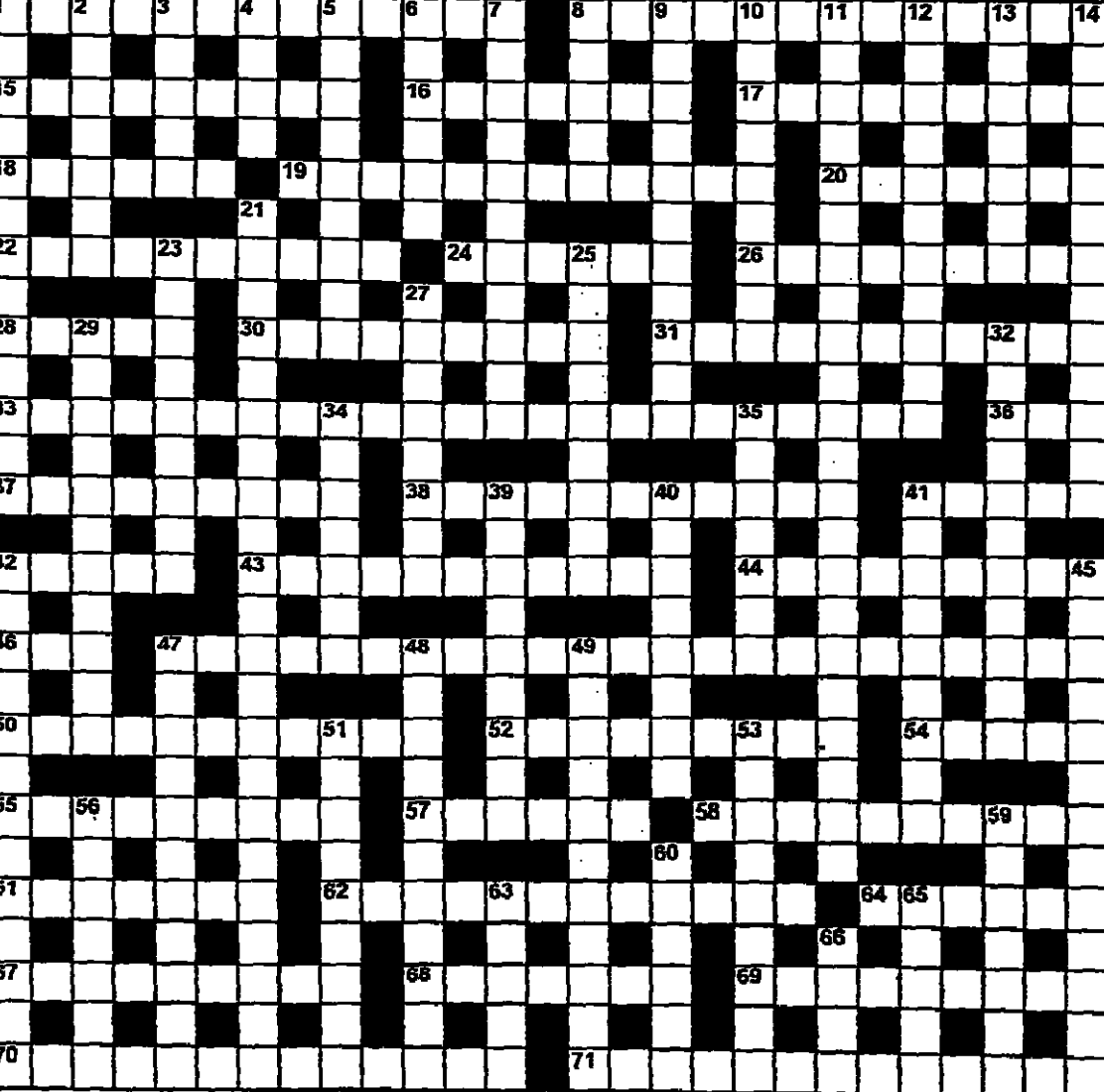
"Mum and Dad would have found it very hard to believe that the house is now a National Trust property." — Sir Paul McCartney on his childhood home being opened to the public. "I'm a millionaire right? Well, I haven't seen a penny of it." — British golfing

star Justin Rose on reports of his new-found status. "The bioelectric shield puts a cocoon around you. At the edge of the cocoon is a layer that spins. That spinning layer is like a gatekeeper. Any energy that is not compatible will be diverted." — Dr Charles Brown, inventor of New Age crystal-filled locket worn by Cherie Blair, on how his creation works.

JUMBO CROSSWORD 17



The prize for the first correct solution to be opened will be a collection of five Oxford University Press titles, the world's most trusted reference books, valued at more than £100. Included are *The Oxford English Reference Dictionary* and *The Oxford Dictionary of Literary Quotations*. Entries should be sent to: Jumbo Crossword 17, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN to arrive by August 6. The name of the winner will be published on August 8.



NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
POSTCODE _____

ACROSS

- 1 Some Italian left in tie and shades (8,5)
- 2 You could regret tackling this fambol (5,6)
- 3 Language that's new—old wearing out (9)
- 4 Merit of foreign work in the Army (7)
- 5 Food item: favourite concoction of fruit, with nothing put in (5,4)
- 6 Horseman trapping a marauder (6)
- 7 Puts in some hard thought to study money exchange values (12)
- 8 Putting one number into a trigonometric function is simple (7)
- 9 Being troubled by continuous escapes of gas, perhaps (10)
- 10 I notice newspaper backing the police (6)
- 11 Faty's not quite tall? On the short side (9)
- 12 Suppress drink, putting out foremost of sots (5)
- 13 Belligerent type getting heated about German (9)
- 14 Casual market concern about profits all falling short (3,4,4)
- 15 Poet's busy recitations of solo travel (1,8,6,2,1,5)
- 16 What's to rival life in 41? (3)
- 17 Abuse man with shield in riot (9)
- 18 Former politician's first speech about Liberal leads to investigation (11)
- 19 Redoubt area allocated to church in city (5)
- 20 Chapter going into mineral pigment (5)
- 21 Trading centre expected German currency and French (5,6)
- 22 Group of Greeks I included in a further answer (9)
- 23 Flower border is cut (3)
- 24 Lawyers taking nothing away from cops, in another case (5,11,7)
- 25 Shocks must arise at quakes (11)
- 26 Incompetent bishop left during the present reign (9)
- 27 Mostly stick prisoner in prison (5)
- 28 A part-song you once noticed in edition, having sharp sight (5-4)
- 29 Soldiers — part-time soldiers — involve me in conspiracy of silence (6)
- 30 Ammunition helping one make a break? (6-4)
- 31 Shelter: first element associated with bosky nook (7)
- 32 This man — he was in play — thingy! (5-3-4)
- 33 Play Henry V with little force or interest (6)
- 34 Dashing T Rex on the rampage? Dodge! (9)
- 35 Believe I'm against taking on English (7)
- 36 Verse in Ezra misquoted, first time — am I right after revision? (5-4)
- 37 Presents blue flicks with the minimum of daring lingerie (9,4)
- 38 Made cheque extra secure, having been cheated (6-7)

DOWN

- 1 How dummy can make any bid at bridge? (13)
- 2 Tending to hurry up with hymn (7)
- 3 Topic in article written on this writer (5)
- 4 A shot out of the field upset enemy forces (4)
- 5 Part of gunman's outfit turning a noble red (9)
- 6 Charge in court involving CID man (6)
- 7 Sort out lines and get moving (11)
- 8 Reader's cut tail of collic? That's less common (5)
- 9 Energetic as capricious younger relatives (5-6)
- 10 Interpreter to take a place among the nouveau riche? (9)
- 11 Rousing Beach Boys song? (4,3,2,4,3,6)
- 12 Cradled, embracing one active in bed, wearing underwear (11)
- 13 They look cherubic, naked, or in a skimpy garment (7)
- 14 Vehicles here and there slew wildly (5-8)
- 15 Romeo's awareness of global hostility (3,5,2,3,3,6)
- 16 Restore water supply to wilting hardy tree (9)
- 17 Expression of disapproval from a blue-eyed boy? (5,4)
- 18 It may be worn only when in a spot (4-4)
- 19 Process involved in going out to the theatre (11)
- 20 A lad arrives upset and argumentative (11)
- 21 Still failed to admit... (3,4)
- 22 ... US city's smartness in the past (7)
- 23 Botch, i.e. balls-up, could be likely (9)
- 24 Ability with a piano — it appears in rendition of duet (8)
- 25 Former leader used style of writing to seer boring (9)
- 26 Helps to make things a success, acting mechanically (4,3,6)
- 27 What you'd expect of a card-carrying member of the Magic Circle (7,2,4)
- 28 Mark is in Paris, as Frenchman starts to make a speech (11)
- 29 Ill at ease, coming round to artist, making recompense (11)
- 30 Told about one tree coming up in a rustic setting (11)
- 31 Aware sot would shortly get drunk, offer this? (4,5)
- 32 Paving the way with gold, say (4-5)
- 33 Spins jars round yard (7)
- 34 Chap, Australian opener, contends with bouncers, possibly (7)
- 35 Imprisoned type, mostly? This chap is innocent (6)
- 36 Shortened, side-road entering street at an angle (5)
- 37 Deity contributing to thunder at Olympus? (5)
- 38 Large reptile commonly caught large bird, so it was said (4)

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